FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 APRIL 1986

Aftermath of TWA Bombing

Mansur Denial of Involvement — May Ilyas Mansur stated at a 5 April news conference in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, that she has "no connection" with the organization responsible for planting the bomb that exploded on a TWA airliner 2 April, Beirut radio reported. Mansur, who is a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, acknowledged having carried out operations against Israel and the Phalangists in the past, but she stressed that she has not yet carried out operations abroad. She viewed the TWA bombing as "undoubtedly cruel," but added that she "cannot describe it as criminal." She confirmed having flown on the TWA jet from Cairo to Athens the day of the explosion, but maintained that she has been accused of the deed only because she is Lebanese.

Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Mansur has connections with the Lebanese Revolutionary Brigades, a terrorist organization which has carried out operations in Europe.

Israeli View of Incident — Both Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that Libya was behind the attack, which was mounted by terrorists from the organizations led by Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha and Sabri al-Banna, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio said the TWA attack may mark the beginning of Col Musa's involvement in international terrorism, adding that Musa has begun sending men to Libyan training centers in order to escape the tight controls imposed on his operations by Syria.

Mideast Groups Claim 31 Mar Mexican Plane Crash

"Egypt's Revolution" and the "Revolutionary Arab Brigades" claimed responsibility 4 April for the plane crash in Mexico 31 March that killed all 166 people on board, AFP reported. In a joint statement delivered to Western news agencies in Beirut and Cairo, the two groups said that a "martyr" had destroyed the Mexicana de Aviacion Boeing-727 in retaliation for the recent U.S.-Libyan military encounter in the Gulf of Sidra and for an Israeli raid on a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon 27 March, AFP added. A photograph accompanying the statement identified the purported suicide bomber as Muhammad Mustafa Muhsin Mashhur.

In Mexico City, the Mexican authorities announced that it will be 6 or more weeks until the official inquiry into the cause of the crash is completed, AFP later reported. However, Mexico City's XEW television subsequently announced that the Mexican Government has "completely ruled out" the possibility that the crash was caused by terrorist groups.

Libya

Commenting on France's decision to expel two Libyan diplomats suspected of connections with planned attacks on U.S. targets, JANA's political editor said the French allegations are false, adding that the expulsion is the result of a French pledge to the United States.

Lebanon

Israeli warplanes raided targets in the Sidon area 7 April, Beirut radio announced, adding that ambulances had rushed to the scene to evacuate casualties. As for the situation in and around the Palestinian camps in Beirut, the radio noted that fighting between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen subsided 6 April in the wake of a new cease-fire agreement. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio stated earlier that Palestinian losses in the fighting amounted to 27 Killed and over 100 wounded.

Reporting on the Amal Movement's 6th Congress, which convened in Beirut 3-4 April, Beirut radio noted that Nabih Birri was reelected leader for 2 more years while Colonel 'Akif Haydar was elected deputy leader. Voice of Lebanon radio stated that six Political Bureau members boycotted the congress and that representatives from the south withdrew because of a dispute between Birri and Dawud Dawud, the Amal chief in southern Lebanon.

Syria

A few people were injured when a small bomb exploded in Damascus 5 April, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

A "major part" of the Al-'Umayah oil platform in the northwest Persian Gulf was "destroyed" in a 4 April Iranian attack, according to an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA. The spokesman added that an Iraqi frigate was "sunk" by a naval unit in Khawr 'Abdallah 4 April. In another IRNA report, an Iranian military spokesman said an Iraqi company was "completely demolished" in northeast Iraq 4 April, adding that Iranian forces infiltrated Iraqi forces, killing the company commander and seizing a large amount of ammunition.

For Iraq's part, a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that Iraqi troops "liberated" Shamiran mountain and several other peaks during a 3-4 April offensive in the northern sector. Further south, Iraqi troops attacked and captured a fortified junction in the Majnun oil fields, according to another communique carried by the radio. As for Iraqi air strikes over the weekend, a communique broadcast by the radio reported that Iraqi planes hit two large oil tankers and raided an "extremely important" Iranian oil pumping station.

Meanwhile, "unidentified" planes attacked a Saudi oil tanker east of Qatar 5 April, injuring 29 sailors, according to a QNA report cited by WAKH.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in a Tehran radio interview following a 6 April Cabinet meeting that his government has approved measures allowing for the participation of some 20 percent of the state workforce at the warfronts.

PLO-Jordan

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] called on Palestinian factions to hold a "unifying" PNC meeting in order to annul the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO, the resolutions of the last PNC meeting held in Jordan, and the Cairo declaration, Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* reported, citing a Khalaf speech in Kuwait 4 April.

Egypt

Soviet Official's Visit — Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department, arrived in Cairo from Amman 5 April, MENA reported. Cairo radio said the Soviet official discussed bilateral relations and the current Middle East situation during talks with Egyptian officials the following day.

Relations With Ethiopia, Sudan — Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid returned to Cairo 6 April following a 2-day visit to Ethiopia during which he delivered a written message from President Husni Mubarak to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, according to Cairo radio. The report said Al-Majid termed his talks with Mengistu as "very frank and positive" and noted that he also met with the Ethiopian foreign and trade ministers. Al-Majid held talks with the Sudanese foreign minister during a stopover at Khartoum Airport, the radio added.

DRA

Agricultural, Industiral Failures — DRA agricultural production failed to grow over the past year while the country's industry is suffering from "serious shortcomings," President Babrak Karmal announced in a speech to the Revolutionary Council broadcast by Kabul radio 2 April. Discussing the national economic results for the Afghan year, which ended 20 March, Karmal said nearly half the country's ministries and departments failed to fulfill planned industrial targets, adding that exports last year were 29 percent lower than in the previous year. Noting the government's failure to control food price increases, Karmal called on government control organs to curtail the illegal export of commodities to Pakistan and Iran and to combat "hoarders." He also complained about continued instances of corruption, embezzlement, and misuse of public and state property.

Kabul Bombing — A bomb exploded in a car near the Kabul hotel 6 April, injuring 22 people, Kabul radio reported, adding that "counterrevolutionary criminals" were responsible.

Attack on 'Rebels' — In Paktia Province, 1,200 Soviet and DRA troops supported by a Soviet brigade attacked a large concentration of Afghan rebels 4-5 April, Riyadh radio reported citing AAP. Three government helicopters were downed during the attack, the report added.

Pakistan Protests Cross-Border Raids — Eighteen DRA aircraft and helicopter gunships attacked Pakistani border posts in southern Waziristan Agency 5 April and a similar attack occurred 3 April, Karachi radio reported, adding that Pakistan strongly protested, to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Pakistan over the attacks.

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Kabul Bomb Blast Injures 22; Rebels Blamed
LD061642 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] By committing a new inhuman crime, the Afghan counterrevolutionary criminals have displayed their enmity against innocent men, women and children. According to a BIA report, this afternoon at around 1430 the agents of imperialism exploded a device near the Kabul Hotel, as a result of which 22 of our innocent compatriots were wounded. They were immediately taken to the hospital. Seventeen were released after treatment. The explosive substance was placed in the glove compartment of a Volkswagen car. In addition to the injuries, material losses have also been caused as a result of the explosion. Our dear compatriots know that the savage counterrevolutionaries do not show mercy to anyone including women, old men and children. Their main essence is enmity against innocent people, murder and plunder of the people.

A security forces spokesman said that we request all our compatriots to be vigilant against these savage elements. Anyone witnessing such events, incidents and evil people should immediately call the following numbers: Kabul 20100, 21659, 24469 and 21908, and inform the security organs and city sarandoys of the events.

Karmal Cables Hungary's Kadar on Independence Day
LD060623 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, General secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, have sent a congratulatory telegram to Budapest addressed to Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP), Pal Losonczi, president of State Council of the Hungarian People's Republic and Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers of that country on the occasion of 101st independence day of Hungary. The message has expressed the confidence that the friendly people of Hungary under the leadership of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the guidelines of the 13th congress of that party will achieve further successes in the social and economic spheres for the building of an advanced socialist society.

The Afghan leaders have also expressed their hope that the existing friendly relations and mutual cooperation between the parties, governments and the peoples of the two countries will further develop in the future.

Karmal Addresses Council on Economic Plans
LD060200 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Concluding speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered at the regular session of the DRA revolutionary Council; date not given — recorded]

[Text] Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council. We have completed the assessment of the plan and budget of the current year 1365 [beginning 21 March]. What are the specific characteristics of these documents? They specify the primary phase in realizing the basic directions of the DRA's socioeconomic growth for 1986-1991. In drafting the plan, a speeding up of the tempo of economic growth, an increase in national revenue, and an increased circulation in the volume of retail goods were addressed. Further growth of the state sectors, the public sector, mixed and cooperative economic sectors, as well as the effective absorption of private investment in economic growth have been envisaged. Measures toward maintaining coordination in executing the planned accelerated tasks and using the resources and means allocated will be taken. The completion of the construction and implementation of the most important energy, agricultural, industrial, and irrigation projects and the repair, reconstruction, and revival of the previous establishments will be (?ensured).

It should be pointed out that considerable material resources have been allocated to social needs, the development of skills, education, culture, public health, the building of schools, and social security. In this way, the draft of this plan once again convincingly shows that the attention paid to enhancing the level of the people's well-being, the improvement of working conditions, and the growth of culture is the consistent policy of our party and revolutionary government.

As before, the needs of our armed forces, which are engaged in a heroic struggle against imperialist aggressors, regional reaction, and the counterrevolution, have been considered. The draft budget maintains the financing of national economic and social-cultural growth. Specific planned tasks for 1365 have been included in the report and therefore do not need to be repeated. The ease of implementing these tasks could be judged on the basis of the implementation of the 1364 plan.

Certain achievements were made in economy during 1364. The GNP was 5 billion afghani more than 1363 and 6.2 percent more than 1357. National revenue also was more than the 1363 index and showed an increase of 5.5 percent compared with 1357.

Despite drought, the volume of agricultural production was kept within the previous year's level. Land and water reform continue consistently. Some 11,790 peasant families received land in 1364. Some 425 new cooperatives were formed. The state has lent a sum of 88 million afghani to cooperatives. The cooperatives have sold about 63,000 tons of agricultural products to domestic and foreign markets. The agricultural production volume of the state establishments has increased one and one-half times.

The tempo of growth and volume of industrial production was increased considerably. The plan for the extraction of natural gas, and coal, the production of bricks, [words indistinct], textile fabrics, wheat, bread, meat, and some other products (?increased) relatively.

The number of transport trucks, the volume of goods transported increased. [passage indistinct] The volume of goods in circulation and state, mixed, and cooperative trade increased 18.7 percent compared to 1363. The export of Afghan goods to socialist countries has been increased.

The prices of foodstuffs and primary goods have stabilized. The work of basic construction is advancing successfully. Six important industrial, transport, communication, energy, and irrigation projects have begun functioning. Among these are: the electricity transmission line from the Soviet border to Mazar-e Sharif, the 126-km road on Kabul-Hayratan highway, the Mazar-e Sharif silo, the expansion of the Kabul international airport runway, an additional building at the Jangalak plant for the basic repairs of motor vehicle engines, a transport station in Balkh, large irrigation constructions over the Kokcha River, and others.

The revolutionary party and rule consistently follow the policy of enhancing the material, living, and cultural standards of all the people of Afghanistan. Without demagogy, the interests of all peoples of the nationalities, tribes, and clans of Afghanistan have been, and are, seriously considered by the DRA.

More resources were spent on the construction of houses, education, and public health in 1364 compared with previous years. Some 840 flats covering a total area of more than 52,000 sq meters were built in Kabul alone. The central polyclinic, nurseries, and the television buildings of the Social Sciences Institute have begun functioning. In all the provinces new schools and hospitals have been built and those which had been destroyed or set fire to by the counterrevolutionaries were reconstructed.

The network of preschool children institutes, schools, and literacy courses have considerably increased. More than 13,000 children were going to nurseries in 1364. More than 686,000 pupils were enrolled in schools. Some 108,000 people completed literacy courses. The number of students at vocational-technical schools and medium professional establishments and institutes of higher education was increased.

Some 1100 able workers, double the size of 1363, found work in the enterprises of national economy. The number of engineers, agricultural specialists, teachers, physicians and ancillary medical staff were increased. In all national economic fields, a positive transformation can be noticed.

Although these victories are still minor, we have the right to be proud of them, as these victories were being achieved under difficult circumstances of economic backwardness, inherited from past oppressive and exploitative regimes, and under the circumstances of the extended undeclared war and aggression by imperialism and reaction of the region, which causes great losses every day. These gains have much political importance. They convincingly display the correctness of the party's political policy and merits of the new democratic system, for the people's sovereignty.

An overwhelming majority of people during the post-revolution years came to believe and continue to believe that all the creative activities of the party and revolutionary sovereignty are directed at improving their material and spiritual life, their economic and cultural life, for the economic, social, and cultural development of our beloved country, our united homeland, the free and independent Afghanistan.

Due to the aggression by imperialism and reaction, as well as the criminal deeds of the counterrevolutionaries, in 1364 we did not succeed in resuming the extraction of petroleum, barite, and lapis; in expanding to a great extent the geological development of gas mines, or in beginning the industrial exploitation of cooper, coal, gatch, phosphate and other natural wealth; or in fulfilling the envisaged volume of work in land irrigation, the construction of government farms, transport stations, power transmission lines, telephone connections, and other necessary affairs for the national economy.

Our people realize that only for this reason we could not accomplish, in a complete and fast manner, those economic, social, and cultural transformations which had been envisaged by the party and the people's sovereignty nor raise noticeably the living standard of the toilers.

The people sincerely support and approve the efforts of the party and revolutionary sovereignty to accomplish [words indistinct] duty of the present stage of the revolution, that is to say the cessation of bloodshed, normalization of the situation, restoration of peace, calmness, and security in the whole territory of the country.

Our people are working hard on the farms, factories, and mills, and being armed are defending the gains of the April Revolution against the aggression of imperialism and domestic enemies, and defending their own sovereignty and the right to live for safeguarding the freedom and independence of our beloved country, Afghanistan.

Today in these difficult conditions in our country, on behalf of the Central Committee of our proud party, our true leader, the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government, I express profound thanks and gratitude to the working class, peasants, all toilers, and the courageous Afghan people for their support for party policy; for their powerful determination in consolidating the revolutionary sovereignty, crushing the counterrevolutionaries, defending our ancestor's land, the fatherland against the savages of imperialism and reaction; for restoring peace and calmness; and for constructing a new, progressive, free, and democratic society. [applause]

Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council. Our revolutionary [words indistinct]. While we assess our gains in a proper and objective manner, we also openly speak with people about our existing problems and difficulties, unrealized plans in the economic field, about mistakes, inabilities, and their causes. Our aim is not to hide shortcomings; on the contrary, our objective is to discover and expose them so that timely measures for their removal can be taken. In following this principle [works indistinct]. A large majority of the country's population is engaged in agriculture.

The party and government pay constant attention to the growth of agriculture. The government gives noticeable material assistance to the peasants. In 1364 the government distributed to peasants 130,000 tons of chemical fertilizer and 15,000 tons of improved wheat seeds; all cotton and sugarbeet growers were supplied with agricultural seeds. The USSR, as in previous years, gave formidable assistance to our agriculture and in 1364 put at our disposal, as a grant-in-aid, the amount of 24,000 tons of

chemical and phosphate fertilizer, 10,000 tons of wheat seeds, 1,000 tons of cotton seeds, and 30 tons of sugarbeet seeds.

In the previous year 800 million afghanis were spent on irrigation. Noticeable work (?was carried out) by the government to combat locusts, and to protect plants and animal against various infections. As you see, a large amount of resources was spent on agriculture. However, what are the results?

Growth in agricultural production cannot be seen in comparison with 1363. Here, only climatical conditions and circumstances of water and weather cannot be blamed. There is (?no) organizational work in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and in the Ministry of Irrigation. The main cause for this situation is this that the government farms — that they administer and that do not work properly, constantly, and sympathetically and accomplished 59.3 percent of the plan in the previous year — were (?not also properly) organized. While the government farms must be the best example of growth and progress, and must yield a profit from agricultural production in the country, in practice they do not have anything to teach the cooperatives and peasants.

One of the basic duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform is to secure all-round growth of agricultural production, implementation of various progessive agricultural methods in the government agricultural economy, and in the cooperative and private economy.

We were optimistic about the agricultural mechanized stations. These stations must (?form) the industrial, material, and technical pillars in agriculture and the [words indistinct] of the state in agricultural production growth. In utilizing broadly the modern techniques, progressive methods for sowing land and the gains of agricultural affairs, these stations must be transformed to a good school of promoting yield profit and land affairs.

The work of the mechanized stations also enjoys political importance and it should make the peasants understand the advantages of [words indistinct] assistance, agricultural cooperation, and promotion of all affairs. Unfortunately, they do not pay profound and active attention to these economic and political duties.

The volume of work that they have accomplished in 1364 is less than the (?previous year). As a result of weak leadership, these stations are nonprofitable for the government. So far, in practice, the purchase of agricultural produce from peasants by the government has not yet been organized.

In 1364 the amount of wheat, cotton, and sugarbeet envisaged in the plan were not purchased by the respective departments of the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs, which resulted in the nonaccomplishment of the plan in the production of fabrics and sugar.

The food, produced by the peasants, was bought cheaply by speculators. The union of cooperatives, Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, however, have bought a large amount of these products, not from the peasants, but from the open market, with a high price. This incorrect action not only imposes losses on the state, but causes prices to go up and causes discontent among the people.

The Council of Ministers must seriously prevent the respective ministries and union of cooperatives from purchasing agricultural production on the open market so as to prevent the unnecessary waste in the state budget and the people's discontent.

They should conclude long-term contracts with peasants for the supply of agricultural production. They should set up centers for the purchase of products in the localities and transfer the purchased products on time. They have the means, motor vehicles, and required transport [words indistinct]. When products are purchased from the open market, the culprits must be severely punished.

There are also serious shortcomings in the industry. Among 17 ministries and departments who had the plan for industrial production in their 1364 budget, eight of them have not carried out the plan duties. The government did not obtain essential products for the national economy to meet the needs of the people.

The Ministry of Construction Affairs did not fulfil the plan for constructing ferroconcrete buildings, commercial concrete, and tar.

The Ministry of Mines and Industries did not produce the required amount of cement and gatch; and the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs did not produce the required amount of cotton and woolen fabrics, vegetable oil, sugar, soap, vegetables, and fruits.

Transport also [words indistinct] in an inefficient manner. The plan for the transportation of commodities by the load-carrier enterprises of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Construction Affairs, and AFSOTRE company, has not been accomplished.

National economic growth requires the construction of new projects, the renewal of construction, and the reconstruction of old enterprises. In considering this (?objective), in 1364 the government has allocated a noticeable budget in this field in comparison to the 1363. But, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Construction Affairs, the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuff, the State Committee of Radio, Television, and Cinematography, and the Union of Peasantry Cooperatives have not utilized fully the planned techniques. As a result the construction of a station for technical services of motor-vehicle transport in Mazar-e Sharif, a factory making concrete pipes in Kabul, the renewal of the building of Milli-bus, and a number of other projects have not taken place.

Meanwhile, some of the ministries and departments are responsible for the financial aspect of the budget of the construction enterprises who have spent money on projects which have not been envisaged in the plan and who have exceeded the financial limit.

Exports in 1364 decreased by 29 percent in comparison with 1363. Here, material reasons -- such as a reduction in the prices of most important export items of Afghanistan: astrakhan, pelt, dried fruit, and Afghan rugs, as well as discriminatory measures taken by the capitalist countries against Afghan exports -- have

played a role. However, the art of foreign trade is that timely measures should be planned for difficult conditions and circumstances, and a flexible approach should be carried out. Foreign trade with capitalist countries [words indistinct]. Our stand vis-a-vis the socialist countries must be for the progress of foreign trade.

Today we must admit that measures taken by the government, ministries, central departments, and municipalities, for the stabilization of prices of products, the basic commodities, were not sufficient. We did not succeed in bringing under serious control the price increase of basic materials in the domestic market.

The fact that the prices of potatos, wheat, milk, vegetables, and animal fat — needed by all families — have gone up, and is an essential factor to which serious attention should be paid and serious measures should be taken. I emphasize that the alleviation of this situation requires serious measures.

The first step should begin at the Ministry of Commerce and Union of Peasants' Cooperatives by strengthening their activities to purchase agricultural produce from the localities and sell it through a commercial network and by paying all-round attention to this task. Without taking this step we will never combat the arbitrary free market and effectively combat hoarding and hoarders.

We are duty bound, first to provide reasonable prices on foodstuffs and basic commodities needed by those working in factories, mills, enterprises and government departments.

The government now has at its disposal all basic commodities imported from the USSR and other friendly countries on the basis of bilateral and grant-in-aid contracts. The amounts of these commodities are sufficient to meet the need of toilers and their families, but it is necessary that such commodities reach the toilers and not the pockets of (?speculators). There are examples that basic commodities needed by the people [words indistinct] are used to raise market prices or are illegally exported to Pakistan and Iran.

How can we fight against such disaster? A most serious control and check on import and sale of these commodities must be established, those basic commodities needed by the people.

There are controlling organs for this: all inspection and commercial control organs of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry Finance, as well as custom houses, and the Central Bank; and the inspection and control organs of the ministries and departments, the state committee of control, particularly the organs of the Public Prosecution Department, state security and sarandoy -- each has controlling duties (?when needed). This is one of the important problems that must be given constant attention by the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium and above all by the Council of Ministers.

In 1364 the issues regarding education and training were solved in unsatisfactory manner. It is clear to every one that the removal of socio-economic backwardness is not possible without the growth, perfection, and improvement of educational affairs, training of professional cadres and expert workers. The effect of education from the economic point of view is tremendous [words indistinct].

Our programs have the objective to use education as an active factor for the national and social development and profound revolutionary transformations. We will spare no effort for the progress of child institutions, schools, literacy courses, increase in the number of pupils in the general schools, secondary educational institutions, technical vocational schools and higher educational institutions.

The 1364 plan duties in the field of education and training are questionable. The Ministry of Education and Training and the local organs of the government sovereignty are slowly following the admission of children who are school age through the first grades. The quality of teaching in the general schools and lycees also remained low. Because of this, numerous students at higher educational institutions and technical colleges have not continued their education and (?remain) uneducated.

The level of demands and examination regarding the Ministry of Public Health must also be raised. This ministry must accomplish its plan duties in the field of expanding the networks of medical institutions, and increase the number of hospital beds, the number of physicians and other medical personnel. Here we see that many indices in athe 1364 plan have not been accomplished.

However, the plan for 1365 places before us more formidable and more serious duties. If we ask whether we can accomplish these duties there is only one answer: we can and must. To this end, the causes behind not achieving plan duties in the previous year must be profoundly and comprehensively analyzed and assessed, and immediate and urgent measures must be taken to remove shortcomings.

At the present session of the Revolutionary Council it must be pointed out that the government and mixed enterprises must organize thier plan duties in a relentless, orderly, and satisfactory manner in the field of directing departments and enterprises; organize careful production, effective work, reasonable and economical expenditure of material — that is to say monetary and financial resources — together with government discipline on plans, finances, and work; and increase serious and careful control on the economic activities of enterprises.

We do not yet have standards and work norms. Similarly, there are no major indices on the plans, effective production, that is to say (?productivity). Two years ago in the Revolutionary Council session on 30 Hout 1362 the issue of [words indistinct] setting up commissions on work norms in the enterprises and inclusion of this subject in the collective contracts was raised. Determining work norms not only assists earnest work but encourages each worker to learn and expand their expertise and productivity.

The need for appreciation and improving work organization through a wage payment system is completely clear and obvious. However, the State Committee of Labor and Social Security, the Central Council of the Trade Unions, the respective ministries and departments have not taken serious action in this area. Every means to enhance the effectiveness of production as well as

performance of the government must be fully utilized.

The production potential of existing enterprises is not being effectively and sufficiently utilized. Active struggle in order to economize raw material, fuel, energy and other resources, has not take place.

An impenetrable barrier has not been established against corruption, giving or taking bribes, embezzlement, unreasonable expense from the budget, misuse of government property or public wealth. Work discipline is at a low level. Necessary use of incentives, material and other encouragement is not utilized. The principle of social justice in its desirable form is not being realized. Conscious work competition is not being properly organized. The leading experiences are not being broadened and the toilers are not being properly attracted to the administration of production. The work effectiveness of the government economic affairs apparatus is weak. Serious combat is not carried out against (?superficial treatment), bureaucracy, irresponsibility and lack of consideration to the needs of the toilers.

All efforts of the ministries, departments, enterprises, toilers' cooperatives, party organizations, officials in charge of the economic affairs and even every employee must be directed toward the removal of these shortcomings and the causes of these defects.

The socio-economic development plan of the government which was approved in the session, reflects the fundamental interests of the people and develops requirements for our society. The execution of this task will strengthen the defensive capability of the country and assist [words indistinct] relentless struggle against the counterrevolutionaries and restoration of peace, calmness, nationwide security, realization of the social policy of the party and raise the living standard of the people.

Those in charge of the ministries, departments, enterprises and organizations are duty-bound to mobilize, with the assistance of the party organizations and trade unions, the toilers' collectives for unreserved accomplishment of duties and to direct the discipline and initiative of the toilers to this channel.

Allow me to express satisfaction that the toilers and all people of the country in 1365 by their self-sacrificing work, will increase the economic and defensive capability of the homeland and create a firm and satisfactory foundation for the victorious growth of the April Revolution and construction of a new Afghanistan that is progressive, proud, independent and democratic. Thank you. [applause]

Keshtmand Addresses AFSOTRE Celebration

LD060610 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0502 GMT 6 Apr 86

[(Text] Kabul, April 5 BAKHTAR — The tenth anniversary celebration of the founding of Afghan Soviet Transport Enterprise, AFSOTRE, was marked here today. The state order of Red Banner which was approved by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA in honour of the meritorious services of AFSOTRE was presented to the president of the enterprise by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Soltan Ali Keshtmand placed a wreath of flowers at the foot of the commemorative monument of the martyrs of Afsotre. Chairman of the Council of Ministers later visited different sections of AFSOTRE. Later, he participated in a grand meeting which was held on the occasion. Addressing the audience, Sultan Ali Keshtmand said that AFSOTRE has rendered great services in the sphere of transportation in the past ten years. The achievements of AFSOTRE are significant for the economy of the DRA. AFSOTRE is one of the distinguished examples of the work and joint cooperation between the workers and researchers of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

AFSOTRE is one of the biggest transport enterprises of our country, its phenomenal development and innovations are a good example for other transport enterprises to follow, said Soltan Ali Keshtmand. AFSOTRE is an example of the joint Afghan-Soviet cooperation which was established in 1976 at an initial capital of 40 (?million) afghanis, 51 percent shared by Afghanistan and 49 percent by the Soviet Union.

Presently, the enterprise has a circulating capital of 420 million afghanis possessing 667 cargo trucks. The enterprise gained the first place in the work emulation drive in transport field and is a winner of People's Friendship Order and the Order of Red Banner. AFSOTRE enterprise handles transportation of 22 percent of the state commodities, 27 percent of transit goods and 63 percent of general goods. The volume of goods carried by the enterprise has increased by 30.5 times from 1976 to 1985.

Herat Officer Promoted to Brigadier General

LD051912 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has promoted Colonel Joma (Asa), commander of Herat 17 Division, the brigadier general rank in appreciation of his heroic activities in the struggle against the counterrevolutionaries.

The decree of his promotion to the rank of brigadier general was presented to him this afternoon by Major General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the Politburo and the DRA Minister of Defense, in the presence of Major General Mohammad Yasain Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and general head of the Army Political Affairs Department, a number of generals and heads of department at the ministry of defense. He wished him further victories in the service of the homeland. Expressing thanks and gratitude to the party and government, Brigadier General Joma assured that he would repay his debt to the homeland and revolution with further devotion.

Mujahidin Concentration Attacked in Paktia

GF060810 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] The Afghan Press Agency [AAP] has said that joint Soviet-DRA forces launched an attack the night before last on the largest concentration of Afghan mujahidin in Paktia Province in southeastern Afghanistan. AAP said that ferocious

fighting continued until early yesterday. The agency added that the attack is being carried out by 1,200 troops supported by a Soviet brigade. The mujahidin destroyed two helicopters as they were landing in the area. They downed a third helicopter early yesterday.

Armed Forces Seize Weapons; Destroy Hideouts

LD061943 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] As a result of heroic operations mounted by the country's armed forces, a number of various Chinese and U.S.-made weapons and anti-state leaflets were seized in (Musai), Lowgar Province.

A security forces spokesman said that during these operations, one medium-range 72-mortar; one recoilless gun; three surface to surface missiles; three other missiles; 6 antipersonnel mines; 16 rounds for [name indistinct] mortar; one reactive defusing unit [as heard]; three U.S.-made bombs along with a parachute bomb [as heard] were seized. Also during the operations, a number of enemy hideouts were destroyed.

14 Counterrevolutionaries Surrender to Armed Forces

LD060920 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR — An armed group of 14 counter-revolutionaries, formerly linked to Jam'iat-e Islami criminal band, surrendered themselves to the armed forces of the DRA along with their ringleader 'Abdol Manan in Parwan Province, north of Kabul.

'Abdol Manan said in an interview to a BAKHTAR reporter that when they were on the side of counter-revolutionary bands they had seen their anti-Islamic and criminal actions against the innocent people of Afghanistan; they destroyed mosques, schools and bridges and plundered peoples properties. Therefore they realized that they had chosen a wrong path which is in contradiction with the people's welfare and the sacred religion of Islam.

The number of armed persons voluntarily surrendering to the State of the DRA is increasing day by day because the government has guaranteed to them jobs and good living conditions in the country.

Reportage on Central Council Session of Tribal Jirga

U.S., Pakistan, Iran Condemned

LD060618 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR — The first session of the Central Council of High Jirga of tribes was held under the chairmanship of Haji Mohammed Samkani, deputy president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and chairman of the High Jirga of tribes. The executive committee of the central council of the Jirga was elected by the participants of the session and the draft of the Jirga's constitution was approved.

The main report of the session was read by Haji Mohammed Samkani, chairman of the Central Council of the High Jirga of tribes. The report of the session says that the High Jirga of tribes is established under the conditions when the valorous people of Afghanistan have scored definite successes. The participants of the session explicitly pledged that the frontier tribes alongside the armed forces of the DRA are prepared for the protection of the borders and will decisively fight for it.

The Central Council of the High Jirga of tribes was established as a permanent organ at the High Jirga of tribes which was held in Kabul in September 1985. The High Jirga had unanimously elected 154 elders and [words indistinct] representatives of tribes and nationalities as members of the Central Council of the tribal Jirga.

The first session of the central council of High Jirga of tribes of the DRA passed a resolution. The resolution condemned the conspiracies of the world imperialism headed by the US imperialism, that of the aggressive militarists of Pakistan and the reactionaries of Iran and the reaction of the region against the DRA.

The participants of the session gave their full support to the peaceful foreign policy of the DRA and also fully endorsed the historical Afghan-Soviet friendship. The resolution adds that the military aid as well as socio-economic and cultural assistance rendered by the Soviet Union for the preservation of the national interests, territorial integrity and independence of the DRA will never be forgotten and the participants of the Jirga are thankful to it. The participants of the Jirga in their resolution once again pledged their full commitment for defending the borders of the DRA, preservation of the gains of the April Revolution as well as for the complete elimination of the counter-revolutionary elements.

Pashtuns View Military Exercise

LD062008 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The representatives of the free tribes who have come to Kabul to take part in the first assembly of the free Pashtun tribes this morning saw an exercise conducted by an artillery and Air Force unit of the DRA and praised the combat spirit of the officers and heroic men.

Major General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of Defense; Sulayman La'eq, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the minister of nationalities and tribal affairs and major-general of the Army Political Affairs Department; Brigadier General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, the minister of interior; and a number of generals and Army officers were present.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the guests were welcomed by Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad and by the leadership of the Ministry of Defense. Then the representatives and members of the assembly of the free tribes toured the Air Force helicopters, radar units, signal and engineering units, logistics, light artillery and air-defense weapons, war machines and armored and motor-

ized vehicles and displayed special interest in the explanations given. The guests went to a special place and saw the exercises which were successfully carried out by artillery and Air Force units.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that after the successful performance of the exercise, the ground and air units of the Army, the sarandoy, Border Guards, Ministry of State Security Forces, and also the limited contingents of Soviet forces paraded in front of the guests.

Ajmal Khatak, the well-known Pashtun poet, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome by the party and state accorded to the representatives of the free tribes and said: We elders, ulema, and youths of Pashtuns and Baluch from Chetal to Baluchestan thank the party and the DRA Government for hosting the first assembly of the free Pashtun tribes in Kabul. He added that the people of the free tribes, by accepting every sacrifice, promise to resolutely support the high aspirations of the April Revolution and to be irreconcilable with the enemies of the Afghan people.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that afterwards Mawlana Muhammad Hashem Ahmadzai, on behalf of the people of Waziristan, spoke and added: The present conditions demands that the fraternal Afghan people and the people of the free tribes unite more than ever before in order to foil the sinister and inhuman plots of the regional reaction and imperialism.

PDPA Leader Meets With Elders

LD070840 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 6, BAKHTAR — Najibullah, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA met today with the elders and clergymen of various tribes of Mowmand who have come to Kabul for participation at the first jirga of Pashtun free tribes.

Addressing the audience, Najibullah said that the elders of the free tribes who were guests at the high jirga of frontier tribes which was held in Kabul last year had proposed to the state of the DRA that the Pashtun free tribes want to hold a jirga of free tribes in Kabul which was accepted by the government of Afghanistan.

Najibullah added that the valorous people of tribes have always been defending the interests of the working people and the Afghan people consider it their duty to be on the side of their frontier brothers.

Later, Haji Dadel Khan Khoga Khail, Haji Abdul Manan Halimzai and others on behalf of their colleagues thanked the party and state of the DRA for holding the jirga of the Pashtun free tribes in Kabul and expressed the full solidarity of Momand tribes with the revolution and the people of Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR Criticizes U.S., UK Aid to Rebels

LD070844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 6, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: Sir Geoffrey Howe, British foreign secretary, during his visit to Pakistan, went to an Afghan counter-revolutionary camp in Peshawar and in his meeting with the leaders of counterrevolution has promised them fresh aid.

The British foreign secretary, in a jeering tone against the DRA, encouraged the Afghan bandits for the continuation of murder and bloodshed. He praised the anti-Afghan position of Pakistan and expressed his satisfaction that both Britain and Pakistan have at the background of the events the scenario of such aids, visits and admissions have common purposes.

Pressed by Washington administration, the government of Margaret Thatcher, the Federal Republic of Germany and other allies in the undeclared imperialist war against the Reagan administration with its deceptive statements pretends to be lending its support to the so-called political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

On the other hand, simultaneous with these hypocritical statements, it places the most advanced weapons at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands and impudently intervenes in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign and non-aligned country. The promise of giving further help to the counter-revolution is not a fresh incident.

Following Ronald Reagan's reception of some counterrevolutionary elements at the White House promising them further aid, Margaret Thatcher received Abdol Haq, who has caused the assassination of tens of our innocent countrymen as an official guest of the British Government.

There are evidences that whenever the opportunities have been provided as a result of the goodwill of the DRA for the reduction of tension around Afghanistan, the imperialist circles have come out to disrupt it by any means. The despatch of American anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, the promising of further aid to the counter-revolution by the British foreign secretary and baseless slanders on human rights were intensified on the threshold of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan which is scheduled to be restarted in Geneva in the near future. They are pursuing subversive objectives in the continuation of war against the DRA and the creation of obstacles for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The crux of the matter is that the imperialists, including the government of Margaret Thatcher do not want to help the process of the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and instead they want to give further dimension to the anti-Afghan undeclared war. The United States, Britain and their allies are responsible for all the bloodshed.

The enemies of the people of Afghanistan should understand that no power can change the determination of the Afghan people for the construction of a new society and they will be doomed to [words indistinct] as usual.

U.S. Stinger Deliveries Encourage Terrorism

LD0060654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: The latest American anti-aircraft rockets Stinger, which the CIA has recently supplied to counter-revolutionary bands entrenched in Pakistan, are aimed not only at the Afghan sky, but they (?also) threaten peace throughout the whole region of Southwest Asia, including Pakistan itself.

If Islamabad is to stop further deliveries of this deadly weapon, and these are only possible with its knowledge and consent, this will play into the hands of those who are striving to erect additional roadblocks in the way of a political settlement [words indistinct] Afghanistan, a settlement which Pakistani leaders keep saying they want.

A few days ago, in an interview with the French newspaper *LE MONDE* Ziaul Haq said that he was ready to sign an agreement with the Afghan government should understanding be reached on all items of the agenda of Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva.

As everyone knows, one and the most important item on the agenda of the Geneva negotiations is the ending of interference, especially armed interference, in the affairs of Afghanistan. Set [as received] *THE WASHINGTON POST*, reporting the Reagan administration's decision to begin delivery of Stinger rockets to bands in several countries, pointed out that this will undoubtedly lead to the wider participation of the CIA in conflicts in third world countries, and judging by everything, to the intensification of hostilities in Afghanistan and Angola.

There is one more aspect to the new American action which is worrying the international community, arms trade is one of the major income sources for Afghan counter-revolutionaries, who are lining their pockets on the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

According to eye-witnesses, including those from Western countries, in Peshawar and other Pakistani populated localities, where Afghan mercenaries have taken up their quarters, one can buy not only automatic rifles and machine guns, but also artillery guns, grenade throwers and mortars, who can guarantee that Stinger roeckets supplied by the CIA would not finally find their way to terrorist organisations operating in other countries and anti-aircraft missile launched by an American mercenary shot down a civilian aircraft of the BAKHTAR airline last year. [sentence as received] The number of killed was 52 people, including 49 passengers. Now a similar fate may await passengers of any airlines, including American ones, and not only in Asia and Africa.

The Reagan administration's decision to begin delivery of anti-aircraft Stinger rockets to counter-revolutionary bands can be viewed only as a further open encouragement of international terrorism.

'Miscreant' Killed on Pakistan Border 4 Apr

BK041556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] One miscreant was killed in an encounter with the Border Security Force [BSF] patrol party on the India-Pakistan border in Amritsar sector this morning. The miscreant along with another person was trying to cross over to Pakistan. The BSF party earlier killed two intruders from Pakistan in an encounter in the same area on Tuesday.

Sikh Pilgrims Denied Permission To Visit Pakistan

BK061718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1708 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 6 (AFP) — The federal government and the state administration of Punjab on Sunday refused permission to 182 Sikh pilgrims to visit Sikh shrines in Pakistan after intelligence agencies raised objections, PRESS TRUST of INDIA reported. The 182 were among 3,000 pilgrims who were to leave April 8 on a 10-day visit to Pakistan, which India charges with aiding Sikh militants and training them in weapons-use.

In Amritsar, PTI quoted a spokesman of the Sikh Temple Management Committee (SGPC) as saying those barred included a member of the committee and the assistant manager of the city's Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine. Government officials did not disclose any reason for the rejections, PTI said.

Meanwhile in Punjab, home of some 13 million Sikhs and India's breadbasket, a Sikh separatist group calling itself the Khalistan Commando Force Sunday claimed reponsibility for the killing of six policemen Saturday in Jullundur Town. A man describing himself as personal assistant to "Gen. Hari Singh, commander of the force," called up the PTI Bureau in Amritsar and warned Punjab's new police chief, Julio Ribeiro, of future action against any "harassment of unconcerned persons."

Continuing Reportage, Commentary on Unrest in Punjab

4 Deaths; Curfew in Khanna

BK050320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed and three others injured when two gunmen suspected to be terrorists fired indiscriminately in a market place in Khanna in Ludhiana District late last evening. The gunmen who came on foot were chased by the district police chief who reached the spot immediately after the incident. While one of the culprits was caught the other escaped. One revolver and some ammunition have been recovered from the arrested culprits. Both the culprits had since been identified. The district authorities have clamped curfew in Khanna as a precautionary measure in view of some tension in the town. Police have sounded a statewide alert in view of this incident. Efforts to apprehend the other culprit are continuing. In another incident, two unidentified desperadoes shot dead a salesman of a liquor vend [as heard] in village Hatari near Ferozepore last night.

Policemen Killed in Jullundur

BK050902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab, five policemen were killed and four injured in an attack by terrorists in Jullundur this morning. The incident occurred when two unidentified terrorists fired indiscriminately on a police party escorting four undertrials in the compound of a local court. The terrorists, while escaping in a jeep, took away three of the four undertrials and three rifles of the policemen killed. The jeep was waiting with some of their accomplices on the roadside. The police have launched a statewide hunt for the culprits and the undertrials. The escaped undertrials have been identified as Bhola, Sukha and Swaranjit Singh.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has described the shootout in Khanna last evening which claimed three lives and in Jullundur in which five policemen were killed this morning as very sad. He told AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent that two more culprits responsible for the Khanna shootout have since been arrested, raising the total number of arrests in this connection to three. Mr Barnala said this became possible due to the timely assistance and cooperation provided by the local people. He said police are on the hot pursuit of the terrorists who attacked the police party in Jullundur this morning and good results are expected. Mr Barnala appealed to all the people to keep their cool and maintain peace and communal harmony at all costs.

Officials Call For 'Firmness'

BK061625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] The law and order situation in Punjab was reviewed by the state chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala at a meeting in Jullundur today. The meeting was attended among others by the director general of police, Mr Robeiro. Mr Barnala directed the officers to deal with the terrorists firmly and asked them to make all possible efforts to apprehend the culprits who killed six policemen in Jullundur yesterday. The chief minister also announced an ex gracia grant of 1 lakh rupees and job and salary up to the time of retirement followed by pension to the dependents of each of the six policemen killed yesterday.

No relaxation in curfew was given in Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Hajipur, and Nakodar as a precautionary measure in view of some tension in these towns. A relaxation ranging from 3-15 hours was given during daytime in Kapurthala, Batala, Pathankot, Ludhiana and Khanna. Meanwhile, a massive hunt is continuing throughout the state to track the culprits responsible for yesterday's shooting incident in Jullundur and killings elsewhere. Police have carried out a number of raids of the suspected terrorist hideouts.

The Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, has said that the Punjab government will have to show firmness and a little more determination in dealing with the present situation. Talking to newsmen in Jaipur today, he said that the Barnala government will continue to get support from all quarters in this task. In reply to a question regarding Rajasthan's share of the Ravi-Beas

waters, Mr Arjun Singh said all apprehensions about its curtailment are unfounded.

The state Congress-I chief, Mr Beant Singh, has expressed deep shock and concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in the state, particularly the recent shooting incidents in the state. In a statement in Chandigarh, he said this calls for united efforts by all to check such activities.

Pakistan 'Blueprint' for Anarchy

BK051338 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 86 p 16

[From D. K. Issar]

[Text] Amritsar, March 28 — A Pakistan blue-print to spread anarchy in Punjab to be followed by direct interventionis being implemented. The Pakistan authorities started implementing their blue-print some time in the middle of January. Most of the districts in Punjab since then have been or under curfew and the State is in the grip of a massive current of communalism. Pakistan-trained men in the garb of Sikhs had entered Punjab in the beginning of January and with the help of their agents started committing murders with lethal calm. Some semblance of action was noticed on the part of only para-military forces.

The "soft" attitude of the State Government towards extremists and with a "demoralised police force", the extremists had a clear field for their operations. Earlier, the pattern was to spurt blood after dusk, but now the extremists are going about their mission of mass-scale murder in the morning.

People of the State are living under the cloak of uncertainty and fear. According to the blue-print, prepared by a top Pakistan Army Colonel, the idea is to create civil war conditions and then Pakistan would help the militants in their "mission". The Pakistan Colonel, who has prepared the blue-print, has also given specific instructions to leaders of various militants to go all-out and declare "a war on the State". Large number of arms have been pumped into the State. According to the blue-print, the killings in Punjab would result in a backlash like the November 1984, riots to be followed by people migrating to and from Punjab. Then the Pakistan Army will directly intervene. Today's attack on RSS [Rashtriya Savayam Sevak] workers in Ludhiana indicates that the Pakistan authorities are hell-bent to whip-up communalism to its zenith in the days to come. Presently, there are about 1,000 men in different Pakistan training camps receiving intensive "military training" to be later pushed across in India at an appropriate time.

Two Killed in Group Clashes in Gujarat 4 April

BK050339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] In Gujarat two persons were killed and eight others, including two women, injured in Borsad town in Khera District in group clashes last night. Following this, indefinite curfew has been clamped in the town from 2030 last night. According to the state police control, the police had to open fire to disperse the crowd indulging in stone-throwing and arson. The situation is reported to be tense but under control.

Escaped Convict Sobhraj Arrested in Maharashtra

BK070311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The escaped convict Charles Sobhraj, and his accomplice, David Hall, have been arrested. The director general of Maharashtra Police, Mr Jog, told our Bombay correspondent, R.B. Pradhan, this morning that the Maharashtra police arrested them last night. It may be recalled that Charles Sobhraj along with six others escaped from Tihar jail in Delhi on the 16th of last month. This is the second time that the Maharashtra police has been successful in arresting Sobhraj. He was earlier arrested in 1976. Charles Sobhraj is involved in a number of criminal cases and is charged with smuggling. He is also wanted by the Interpol. David Hall, a British national, was arrested at Palam airport about 2 months ago in connection with smuggling of narcotics. He was released on bail. Hall visited Sobhraj at Tihar jail just before he escaped. Of the six convicts who escaped from Tihar jail with Sobhraj, Bhola and Dinesh have already been arrested.

Protocol on Ferrous Metallurgy Signed With USSR

BK041609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol to strengthen cooperation in ferrous metallurgy. The steel secretary, Mr R.P. Khosla, and the first deputy Soviet minister of ferrous metallurgy, Mr L.V. Radyukevich, signed the protocol in New Delhi today at the end of a 4-day meeting of the India-Soviet joint working group. The group noted that there is a need to improve the production and financial performance of Bhilai and Rourkela steel plants.

Mizo Leader Laldenga Meets With Home Minister

BK050928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga, called on the union home minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi this morning. The meeting lasted about 15 minutes. Mr Laldenga was accompanied by his colleagues, Mr (Rual Chinna) and Mr (Tanliya).

Public Entry into International Airports Banned

BK070317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Public entry to the four international airports in New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras has been banned. The general manager of the International Airports Authority of India, Mr Harbanskumar, told newsmen in Calcutta yesterday this decision has been taken for security reasons.

Protest Lodged With DRA Over Border Violations

BK061539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Six Afghan aircraft and 12 helicopter gunships violated Pakistan's airspace on Saturday [5 April] and attacked frontier corps posts located at (Dandung), (Sasai), and Gurgut near Miran Shah in the southern Waziristan Agency. They dropped eight bombs and fired rockets and shells, injuring a soldier of the Frontier Corps.

Earlier on Thursday, the Karmal administration forces fired 30 rockets and 11 artillery shells at (Barchambarqand) and (Nashtar) areas near Nawagai, injuring one child.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

Spokesman Rules out Direct Talks With Kabul

BK061632 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] A foreign office spokesman in Islamabad today confirmed that direct talks with the Kabul administration on the Afghanistan problem will not be held unless and until a political settlement based on all four instruments is reached. The spokesman said the next round of negotiations due to be resumed in Geneva on 5 May will probably last up to 2 weeks or longer.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the Geneva negotiations have reached a crucial phase in which the interrelationship between the major issues, such as the fourth instrument and the withdrawal of Soviet troops; other factors of the settlement will be discussed in detail. He said the draft agenda for the talks to be held on the basis of a recognized format will be prepared by the UN secretary general's personal representative, Cordovez.

The spokesman said the main point is to reach an agreement on a mutually acceptable and (?convenient) time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Although the negotiations will be difficult, there is no reason why they should not be successful if both sides work with sincerity and goodwill, he observed. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent has learned that Pakistan will insist on the point that the withdrawal of Soviet troops must be completed within a few months.

About the third meeting of the India-Pakistan joint commission, which could not be held in March-April this year, the spokesman clarified that the delay in the meeting has been caused by certain procedural factors, and that the two subcommissions are expected to meet very soon. The spokesman said the Indian external affairs minister has indicated that he will be busy until May. Pakistan has expressed the view that the meeting of the subcommissions can be followed by the joint commission's session during this summer season.

About Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's meeting with his Indian counterpart in Stockholm last month, the spokesman said the two leaders had reviewed the existing relations between Pakistan and India and had stressed the need for continuing the process of normalizing relations because it is essential for maintaining regional peace and stability.

The spokesman said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Indian prime minister had exchanged verbal messages through the Indian ambassador to Pakistan. President Ziaul Haq reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to establish tension-free and cooperative relations with India. The Indian prime minister expressed similar sentiments, the spokesman added.

Further Reportage on Visit of UK Foreign Secretary

Describes Talks 'Constructive'

BK041549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The British secretary of state for foreign affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has described as constructive and friendly his talks with Pakistani leaders in Islamabad and said that the Afghanistan problem has been stressed during these talks. Addressing a news conference at the Peshawar Airport prior to his departure for Lahore this afternoon, he said Britain and Pakistan share identical views on several aspects of international problems and their viewpoints on several other issues, including the Middle East, are also similar.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said Britain fully supports Pakistan in its determined opposition to foreign intervention in Afghanistan. When asked about the possibilities of resolving the Afghanistan problem through diplomatic efforts, he said every settlement of the problem should be based on the restoration of the right of self-determination to the Afghan people.

On bilateral relations, Howe said there can be no doubt or suspicion about the extremely cordial relations existing between Britain and Pakistan. On the problems of immigrants in the United Kingdom, he said there are no major problems regarding immigrants there. He said he has extended an invitation on behalf of the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to visit Britain any time this year. Earlier, Sir Geoffrey Howe visited an Afghan refugee camp at Kachagarhi near Peshawar today.

The British foreign secretary drove in a car to the historic Khyber Pass and inspected Pakistan-Afghan border from the (Michni) post. He had his lunch at the Khyber Rifle mess at Landi Kotal and held separate meetings with the North-west Frontier Province governor, Nawabzadah Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, and the provincial chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, in Peshawar today. He has now arrived in Lahore.

Addresses Lahore Businessmen

BK051034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The British secretary of state for foreign affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has said Britain, through the European Community, has consistently pressed for the early launch of a new round

of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Addressing the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lahore today, he said this new round of negotiations should bring new areas within the discipline of that agreemnt and establish the rules by which world trade coud be governed well into the next century.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said his country would continue to support Pakistan's efforts to achieve its development objectives.

Meets Punjab Officials

BK051543 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has said Britain will continue to support Pakistan's efforts to achieve its development objectives. He stated this while addressing the members of the local chamber of commerce and industry in Lahore today.

Sir Geoffrey Howe also met with Punjab Assembly Speaker Mian Manzoor Ahmad Watto. Earlier, he visited several historical places. The British foreign secretary, who later arrived in Karachi, held separate meetings with Sind Governor Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan, retired, and Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah. The governor presented a shield of the governor's house and a shawl, while the chief minister presented an emblem of the chief minister's house to the distinguished guest.

Supports Stand on Afghanistan

BK060219 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Mr Geoffrey Howe, has said that Britain admires and supports Pakistan's peaceful stand at the indirect talks in Geneva for settling the Afghanistan problem. Addressing the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs in Karachi this evening, he said Pakistan has shown great courage and generosity in taking the huge refugees problem resulting from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Britain, he said, has tried to help Pakistan by providing 30 million pounds in relief for the refugees and this aid is being increased by more than 4 million pounds.

The British foreign secretary said that the solution of the Afghanistan problem lies in the withdrawal of Soviet forces, allowing the Afghan people to decide their own future and the return of the Afghan refugees to their home. He said Britain respects Pakistan's nonalignment and believes that Pakistan is well placed as a Frontline State to understand Britain's policy of alignment in the context of peaceless [as heard] conflicts.

He welcomed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which he said would be beneficial to the countries of the region.

In an interview in Karachi, the British foreign secretary described his visit to Pakistan as extremely useful which has further strengthened existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in a varirety of fields. He said he had discussed with the Pakistani leaders prospects of peace in the region and the entire world as a whole.

In reply to a question, Sir Geoffrey Howe said that Britain has been able to maintain a very large aid program over many years and an important part of it went to Pakistan. To another question he said Britain wanted to secure success against protectionism in world trade. The British foreign secretary held separate meetings with the Sind governor, Retired Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan, and chief minister, Syed Ghous Ali Shah.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK060334 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, left Karachi for London yesterday evening after his official visit to Pakistan. Sir Geoffrey Howe was accompaned by a 18-member delegation for this visit.

Swiss Foreign Minister Arrives 7 Apr

BK070631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The Swiss vice-president and foreign minister, Pierre Aubert, arrived Islamabad this morning on a weeklong visit to Pakistan. He is accompanied by a 9-member delegation. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan received him at the airport.

On his arrival in Pakistan Aubert said in a statement that Pakistan is one of the five Asian countries to which Switzerland is giving special attention with respect to economic activities. On the Afghan refugee problem he said it is expected that the Government of Switzerland will increase assistance to the refugees to the extent possible on humanitarian grounds.

About his talks with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the Swiss foreign minister said that he had talks with Yaqub Khan in Switzerland in 1984 and his current visit would enable him to continue these talks.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Calls on Parties To Participate in Elections

BK051604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has renewed his call to those political parties who are still staying off the ensuing parliamentary poll to take part in it in greater national interest. He was inaugurating the new building of the National Medical Institute in Dhaka today. He called upon the political parties to avoid the path of indiscipline by participating in the elections for transition to democracy. The president thanked the political parties who have already come forward to take part in the elections.

About the development work going on in the country, the president said Bangladesh has achieved a dignified position in the comity of nations due to relentless efforts made during the last 4 years. These efforts for economic development must continue. The president lauded the services being rendered by the National Medical Institute hospital to the people of all Dhaka.

Delhi: Opposition Parties Split Over Polls Issue

BK040944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] In Bangladesh the opposition seven-party alliance and the five breakaway constituents of the 15-party alliance have announced identical programs to continue the movement for achieving their five-point demands. The demands include lifting of martial law and holding of election under a neutral caretaker government. They had earlier decided not to take part in next month's parliamentary elections.

The 16-party Jatiyo Oikyo [National Unity] Front led by former President Khandakar Mushtaque Ahmed has also split on the polls issue. While 11 parties of the front favor participation in the elections, 5 parties are against it. The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that with only 3 days left for the filing of nominations the main opposition party, the Awami League, and other pro-election constituents of the 15-party alliance have not been able to finalize their list of common candidates so far.

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister Reaffirms Policy on North, East

BK071205 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The problem of terrorism can be solved in a couple of minutes if we are prepared to divide the country giving away the north and eastern regions. However, the president and the government will not be traitors. This was stated by Prime Minister R. Premadasa after declaring open (Dilgalugama) model village in Polonnaruwa yesterday. The prime minister said that the terrorists say that they will end their violent activity only if they get the north and east. The government repeatedly states that this will never be permitted.

While this is where the problem stands today, the leader of the SLFP, Mrs Bandaranaike, says that she has a solution. The prime minister pointed out that it may be that Mrs Bandarnaike will concede the demands of the terrorists if she should come to power. He added that if there is a solution to the problem of terrorism, it should be put forward now.

Speaking further, Mr Premadasa noted that terrorism could have spread even to Polonnaruwa if not for the foresightedness of the president who made the decision to go ahead with the accelerated Mahaweli program. He urged the people to act unitedly and not be misled by certain actions.

Government Asks UK To Assist in Tamil Control

BK071201 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has asked Britain to clamp down on Tamil expatriates in London who give active support to terrorists in Sri Lanka. *THE GUARDIAN* newspaper reported that Sri Lanka's request follows an offer made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary, to amend legislation on extradition after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi complained about lenient treatement to Sikh militants in Britain. Sir Geoffrey Howe is reported to have told Mr Gandhi that he would appoint a special representative to provide a link with Delhi on the Sikh issue. The minister of state at the Foreign Office has already been nominated to handle this. The British foreign secretary has also invited India to nominate their own special representative to (?meet) with him.

Another report states that Britain made no distinction in dealing with extradition request from Sri Lanka or India. President Jayewardene raised the issue of Tamil separatists in Britain when he met British prime minister, Mrs Thatcher, at bilateral meetings and international gatherings.

4 Killed in Jaffna; 1,000 Moved From Palali Area

BK060856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 4 persons are feared killed and 10 injured in and around Jaffna town in an exchange of fire between Tamil militants and the Army. The AIR [All India Radio] Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that there was exchange of mortar and small arms fire being heard from 0800 this morning.

In Jaffna town, shops were closed and vehicles were off the road. Security sources confirmed the earlier report that over 1,000 people living close to Palali airport have moved out of the area. This followed heavy strafing by helicopters in the area during the last few days.

Meanwhile, people in Mannar are facing an acute scarcity of essential commodities since the Sri Lankan Government failed

to restore train services to the north following the blast in a train on the 25th of last month.

Further Details

BK061115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] About 1,000 persons living in proximity to the Palali army camp in northern Sri Lanka are reported to have moved from the area. The persons were given notice some time ago to leave due to security reasons. There had been several attempts to attack the aircraft landing and taking off at the Palali camp. The people who have been asked to leave will be paid compensation.

Jaffna Camp Shelled

BK071122 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The terrorists shelled the army camp at Jaffna fort with mortar wounding two officers yesterday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the two officers were flown to Colombo for emergency treatment.

Meanwhile, the local leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization at Kilinochchi was shot dead last Friday [4 April] when he attempted to attack the security forces.

Civilians around four security camps in the north — Palali, Tondaimanar, Point Pedro and Valvedditurai — have been advised to leave their homes as terrorists were found to be attacking the installations with mortar and rocket shells almost daily.

Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunge said yesterday that these moves which were a clear indication that the terrorist groups were stepping up violence prompted the security forces to airdrop by helicopter leaflets cautioning the civilians to seek safety.

SUN Criticizes Bhagat's Remarks on Ethnic Issue

BK041414 Colombo SUN in English 26 Mar 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Bhagat Shoots His Mouth Off Again"]

[Text] If any man can control his tongue, he has perfect control over himself. People like Bali Ram Bhagat [Indian External Affairs Minister] are obviously not blessed with this virtue.

The 'genocide' bombshell he dropped last month, shattered many of the links that had been delicately set in place, in the efforts to settle the ethnic conflict.

A war of words erupted across the Palk Straits, fired by the destructive force of a loose tongue.

Fortunately, Sri Lanka decided to cool it and President Jayewardene sent a personal message to Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi reiterating Sri Lanka's commitment to a peaceful political solution and inviting India to continue its 'good offices'.

While Sri Lanka awaited India's response after unilaterally suspending aerial bombing in the north and checks in the surveillance zone, Bali Ram Bhagat has shot his mouth off again.

Speaking in the Indian Parliament on Monday, he accused the Sri Lankan government of 'pursuing' a wrongful policy by using mercenaries from the most hated Israeli Mossad and also reportedly from South Africa. The separatist propaganda outfits could not have asked for better ammunition.

Once again the fragile process leading to negotiations might be buckled and extremists on both sides boosted.

The harsh language and sabre-rattling by Bali Ram Bhagat are much in line with the slanted lead stories by propagandists such as G. K. Reddy in the flagship of Hindu puritanism, the Madras *HINDU*. The newspaper is known to be controlled by Hindu-Tamil chauvinists of the Parthasarathy pedigree.

Is Bali Ram Bhagat also being controlled or influenced by these militant, narrow-minded circles? Or is India trying the hackneyed theory of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds?

Premier Rajiv Gandhi and Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari have been fair and moderate in the statements they have made on the Lankan ethnic front. Why then is Bali Ram Bhagat being allowed to boom out with so much bias, inaccuracies and exaggerations?

We reiterate, as the Jayewardene government has done so often, that we expect and appreciate India's efforts to help find a just solution to the ethnic conflict.

But Sri Lanka cannot and will not turn a deaf ear to irresponsible utterances from men who occupy very responsible positions.

Khomeyni Calls For Continuing War Until Victory

LD041911 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — In a message to the people and to Muslim combatants released here Friday, the leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, called on Muslim combatants to fight on to an eventual triumph in the war with the Baghdad regime.

The imam who was sending the message by way of a response to a report from a seminar by army and other officials in Tehran for pooling volunteer services for the war effort also addressed himself to the Persian Gulf countries reminding them that the Islamic Republic is not after territorial expansion and that it favors peaceful relations with her neighbouring countries.

In his message the imam, however, referred to Saddam Husayn of Iraq as an in [as received] "infectious tumour in the body of the Islamic nation of Iraq" with whom the region will be writhing in unrest.

The imam also reminded the people and the armed Forces that despite the victories already achieved, Iran's Muslim combatants are now only midway in their fight with the Iraqi regime and that as such they should not feel too proud of their accomplishments.

Imam Khomeyni also reminded that as time passes the countries of the region better realize that their support for the Iraqi ruler is not likely to avail them, and that the more they continue in their support from him the more shaky their governments become at home.

The imam also offered his appreciation to the organizers of the seminar and called on the people to keep the fire of the war ever burning in the battlefronts.

Text of Khomeyni Message to Tehran Seminar

LD051124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Reply message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, commander in chief of the armed forces, to the Labbayk ya Imam seminar in Tehran; dated 4 April 1986 — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the esteemed members of the war support seminar, may God Almighty support them: Your message in connection with the unprecedented welcome given by the warrior people to joining the ranks of the combatants of Islam and your resolve to make the most of these immense capabilities has been received. We offer thanks to God Almighty that, on the eve of the mission of the Holy Seal of the Prophets — may God's benediction and peace be upon him and his scion — the heroic Iranian nation is once again demonstrating the everlasting epics of its presence in defense of dear Islam and the Islamic state of Iran by its unprecedented participation in the convoy of Karbala marchers, and has astonished the world. And with its lofty courage is about to eradicate the remnants of the moribund roots of the Iraqi 'Aflaqi Party, thereby liberating the oppressed peoples of Iraq, Iran, and the region from the yoke of these slaves of Satan.

With thanks to the esteemed members of this seminar who, God willing, with their moral and obvious unity, are planning these Iraqi forces towards sacred defense, the dear nation of Iran and the esteemed combatants and responsible officials of the Islamic Republic know that world arrogance and most of the countries of the region have realized full well that today Saddam's escape from this deadlock and the vortex which they themselves have created for him is an impossible task. They know that, despite all those modern armaments and military, economic, and propaganda help that passes every day from the life of this malignant tree, its instability is even more obvious. They might have learned, more or less, that further resistance to the sentiments and pure feelings of the people of Iran and that support for Saddam not only would not bring them any benefit but would pave the way for their instability among their own nations.

Also, through these years of the imposed war, it has become obvious to them and even to those organizations that up until yesterday supported Saddam that the only person in this war who has caused all the aggression, wickedness, slaughters, rendering the high seas unsafe, attacks on civilian aircraft, use of chemical bombs, and violation of international rights and laws is none other than Saddam personally and the Iraqi Ba'th party.

All these people know that, if Israel is pursuing the plan to conquer the area between the Nile and Euphrates, Saddam, too, by his onslaught on this Islamic country has been pursuing the plan of imposing his overlordship on the Arabs and the region and of being the policeman of the Persian Gulf, although a great many people do not dare to admit this reality openly.

We deem all the successes in the political and military arenas to be indebted to the courage of the people and the steadfastness of the combatants. We once again proclaim to the countries of the region that the Islamic Republic, despite its daily increasing might on the political and economic arenas and despite the support given by the multimillion-strong masses of the people — we daily watch the glorious parades of tens of divisions of the Republic's trained forces — has never contemplated expansionism or conquest of other countries; that we are constantly seeking to have friendly relations with the regional Islamic countries; and that the Arabs and the Islamic countries, particularly those on the Persian Gulf, should know that as long as a corrupt and war-mongering regime as that of Saddam exists, the region will never witness tranquillity and as long as this festering tumor exists in the body of the Islamic country of Iraq, the region will also burn with the fever of insecurity and incidents.

I should remind our dear nation and our esteemed officials and warrior combatants of another point: Although victory and superiority is yours on all the battlefronts and 'Aflaqite eyes have been robbed of tranquil sleep, this is not the end of the road to the sacred defense of the Islamic country and the repelling of aggression. The responsible officials and the commanders of the army, the corps, and mobilization, by utilizing their own material and moral capabilities and the severe and profound instability reigning on Iraq's moribund body in the war fronts — particularly in the heroic battle of Al-Faw — should continue their ruthless battle and resistance until the close ranks should give them no quarter! May conceit generated by the victories — God forbid — not cause weakness in responsibility or inattention to

plans! With the utmost humility I call on these victorious defenders never to shun giving succor to righteousness or dependence on Almighty God. There is no victory except through God the Great, the wise. [Koranic verse]

The dear Iranian nation, which on all the arenas deems itself dutybound to carry out its divine responsibility and follow up its achievements, should realize that filling the battlefronts with trained forces and preparedness to defend Islam and Iran are considered the most important divine duties for all strata. Praise be to God, the people have carried and are carrying out in the best possible manner this sacred canonical duty of theirs; and the world has already witnessed the tumultuous waves of these committed and vigilant men, whether clergymen, university academics, or students, whether workers, farmers, bazaar merchants, or civil servatn - all these people together.

May I thank the responsible authorities, particularly the esteemed members of this seminar, who have decided to make use of these vast popular capability with their perfect planning. May I also call on the dear nation to keep the fronts and the areas behind the fronts warm so that, by the grace of God Almighty and the blessed prayers of the holy hidden imam — may our lives be sacrificed to his cause — we might witness greater success in carrying out the rite of divine defense.

Oh God, graciously grant our dear nation the honor of steadfastness and apparent and hidden victory; graciously grant our men in the army, the corps, the mobilization, the Karbala' marchers, the jihad wagers, the relief workers — these pure and gnostic combatants - success and victory in their battle against their enemy; graciously grant them a firm resolve and steadfastness; graciously grant fortitude and recompense to the dear families of the martyrs, the self-sacrificers, the POW's and those lost to their homelands; graciously grant healing to the self-sacrificers of the revolution; graciously resurrect our precious martyrs together with their immense recompense side by side with the martyrs of the dawn of Islam; and graciously grant your peace and benedictions to the master of destiny and the inheritor of the earth, the holy hidden imam — may my life be sacrificed to his cause!

Peace be upon the good worshippers of God.

[Dated] This 15th Day of Farvardin, 1365, coinciding with 24th Rajab, 1406 [4 April 1986]
[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

IRGC on '100 Percent Alert'
LD051225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Following the remarks made by commander-in-chief Imam Khomeyni about a more extensive and all-round presence of all sections of warrior Iranian nation and about using all the country's resources in the service of the war, the central HQ of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in response to the people's unprecedented enthusiasm, has announced that all the corps' centers throughout the country will be on 100 percent alert from tomorrow until further notice.

IRGC To Organize Popular Forces for War Effort
LD051120 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — In order to organize popular forces to take part in the Iraqi imposed war, special forms will be distributed among the public, said the spokesman and head of the central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Afshar, here Saturday.

The measure is in line with recent statement of Imam Khomeyni calling for the participation of all eligible forces in the war, he added. The IRGC, he further told IRNA, has prepared plans to mobilise and organise the forces to fight against the Iraqi forces.

To this end, Afshar added, a special form will be published in newspapers, beginning Sunday, to be filled by all volunteers who wish either to be sent to war fronts, serve behind the fronts, or work on full time and part time basis in the IRGC or the construction jihad.

The volunteers will send the forms to the IRGC or Jihad headquarters for evaluation.

On status of the enemy forces, afshar said that the enemy was in the worst possible situation, adding that all movements of iraqi forces are checked by the islamic combatants of Iran.

According to the information received, he added, the Iraqi regime is planning a counterattack in north or Al-Faw region on the anniversary of the formation of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. The forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he stressed, were ready to smash any attempt by the enemy. The Iraqi forces should know that in order to save their lives they have no alternative but to surrender to the Islamic forces of Iran and Joint the ranks of the Iraqi Muslim mujahideen in fighting the Baghdad regime. He also called on Iraqi pilots to land in Iranian airports and on Iraqi naval commanders to surrender to the Muslim forces of Iran.

Students, Scholars To Volunteer
LD061324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, [IRGC], announced: Following the recent remarks made by the commander in chief of the Armed Froces on how the battlefronts should be filled with trained forces ready to defend Iran's Islam and that this is an important, divine duty for all strata of the population and following the IRGC's announcement detailing its various needs and the repeated calling in of students, university teachers, and scholars for receiving their duties, volunteers — in order to speed up and facilitate training, dispatch to the fronts, or cooperation with the IRGC — from the day after tomorrow can present themselves to the relevant IRGC personnel in the Islamic Societies of Universities in order to deliver their completed forms that specify their duties. The date of their dispatch and the manner in which university volunteers can cooperate will be announced later. It is evident that, in accordance with the previous IRGC announcement, student forces whose term of duty may consist of 6 or more

months, will have this time period counted as part of the military service term set down for them.

Iraqi POW's Ask To Fight Against Iraqi Regime

LD051303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Following the guidelines of the imam of the Islamic nation on a more extensive presence by the Hezbollahi Islamic nation on the battlefields, Iraqi POW's stationed in Tehran's Heshmatiyeh camp signed a petition requesting permission to be dispatched to the war fronts against Iraq's Zionist regime.

In the petition, which they signed with their blood, the Iraqi POW's express contrition for their past deeds and ask Imam Khomeyni to permit them to be dispatched to the war fronts in order to participate in the sacred defense [of Islam] and the chastisement of the aggressor Iraqi regime. According to this report, the Iraqi POW'S stationed in Heshmatiyeh camp also expressed support in their petition for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq.

IRGC To Train Iraqis

LD071225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Following the remarks by Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the armed forces, concerning the military training of different strata of the population and their deployment to the battlefronts, the Central Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of iraqi [SAIRI] declare in a joint statement their readiness to undertake the training and redeployment of the Iraqi brethren to the liberated regions.

On the same issue all Muslim and returning Iraqis have been invited to present themselves in person, in order to register with the following mobilization unit of SAIRI, the mobilization of Iraq and the Iraqis' religious centers in the cities of: Karaj, Qazvin, Tabriz, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Ahvaz, Esfahan, Qom, Kashan, Arak, Yazd Jahrom, Shiraz, Kerman and Mashhad. In Tehran they should present themselves to the bases of Malekashtar, Shahr-e Rey and SAIRI, so that arrangements for the deployment of these dear ones can be made. The date for the deployment of Iraqi Muslim forces to the battlefronts is set for next Monday, 14 April.

Officials Visit Khomeyni on Muslim Festival

LD071056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] On the anniversary of the ordination of the beloved prophet of Islam, Mohammad ibn 'Abdallah — peace be upon him — this morning President Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Supreme Court Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Musavi, accompanied by some government officials, were received by Imam Khomeyni and congratulated him on the anniversary of this great Islamic festival. Imam Khomeyni responded by congratulating them, the world Muslims and the Iranian nation.

Musavi on Dispatch State Workers to Battlefronts

LD061441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to unidentified correspondent following the 6 April Cabinet meeting in Tehran — recorded]

[Text] During today's session, the Cabinet discussed the foreign policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward its neighboring countries and exchanged views on current topics and developments, including the issue of the imposed war. While affirming previous policies and emphasizing the need for friendly relations with nations, the Cabinet made the necessary decisions about the extension of relations and good-neighborliness.

At the end of this Cabinet session, the prime minister replied to our correspondent's questions about the presence of senior U.S. officials in the Persian Gulf region as well as questions on the message of the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni] on the imposed war. We draw your attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, viewing the current events in the region and the regional tour by U.S. officials to evaluate the present situation, could you comment on these developments and (?provocations) in relation to the developments in the imposed war? What is the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From our point of view, there have been many deep changes in the region, particularly following the stationing of our forces in the Al-Faw region — what the arrogant powers publicized as impossible, and Saddam said that Iran had made the impossible into a possibility — when perhaps fear has taken root in the countries of the region despite the fact that we repeatedly stated that this fear will exist when these powers came face to face with their people, and when they relied on the great powers. These great powers have come to the region to assure their friends, as they have stated themselves.

What we can state is that such reliances, assurances, and support usually do not preserve governments, as this support did not keep the shah in power when, after the tragic mass murder of 17 Sahrivar [the shooting of civilians demonstrating in Tehran during September 1978] with its thousands of martyrs in Martyrs' Square as well on most of Tehran's thoroughfares — all of whom died following a telephone message from Carter who expressed his unlimited support for the shah. But this had no (?effect) on preserving the shah.

The same is true today. We believe that such support is meaningless and ineffective. What is being established as a fact and a principle in the Middle East as well as the Islamic region is the strong desire of Islamic nations to return to Islam. No movement can stand against the might of Islam; under such circumstances, no councils of unity, solidarity or even cooperation can stand.

Therefore, I once again advise them not to let themselves feel secure with the great powers. These powers are those whose own peoples are opposing them. It would set their nations deeper against those governments if they show friendship toward these powers. It would creat an atmosphere of crisis. If you are for regional security and an atmosphere of calm, then act independently and do not rely on the superpowers. You should be mindful of the interests of your own nations and (?have no fear), as the imam of the ummah has graciously stated on many occasions that the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic seeks friendly relations with all Islamic countries.

[Correspondent] In your comments about the war and the recent decree by the imam of the ummah during a meeting with various groups of people, reference was made to the war and to new duties. Could you explain what developments have taken place concerning the possibility of making available 5 to 10 percent of the state employees to the war headquarters, considering the recent approval by the (?Council of Ministers)?

[Musavi] The message of the imam of the ummah has initiated a mighty movement among the people and the executive, the servants of the nation. We are witnessing and extensive and firm response which, in many cases, we have had to use measures to route it into a logical direction. A brother minister asked me whether this response, which had been felt at the level of deputies and and the directors general, could not be directed to the warfronts. This brother is, of course, Mr Akrami, our education and training minister who presides over a gigantic human resource from the point of view of education cadre as well as the pupils and others in the same categories. Our major understanding is that the attention raised by the message of the imam of the ummah has been deep and very extensive. We must immediately allow the Guards Corps, Basij, and our dear Armed Forces to arrange facilities to absorb, train and educate the volunteer forces for the warfronts and, God willing, for victory. The government also approved provisions for the participation of about 20 percent of the state workforce in the warfronts. Further, in the light of new developments, we stated during the Labbayk Ya Imam seminar that all of the resources of the administration will be made available for the war effort as well as [words indistinct]. We will encourage and provide bonuses and facilities to our workforce in order to make them a capable and suitable resource that is sufficient to the needs of the warfront. Particular encouragement is being given to the trained workforce, and naturaly this is being carried out in two areas: On the one hand, the war requirements for a trained workforce must be clarified and the employment capabilities increased; on the other hand, such personnel must be located within various ministries and establishments and, God willing, assist in the war effort so that we may deal more decisive blows to the regime of Saddam. [end recording]

Reportage on Nonaligned Ministers Meeting in Cuba

Castro Receives Khamane'i, Musavi Messages

LD051448 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA - In a meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana Friday, Iranian minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Mohammad Farhadi, submitted written messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

At the meeting, Fidel Castro reiterated Cuba's support for the just rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran and wished further success for her.

Farhadi is in Havana to participate in the second conference of the cultural ministers from Non-aligned Movement and developing countries. Iran has propound a plan to the conference regarding the need for observing the international regulations, especially those which ban the use of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Chemical Weapons Discussed

GF050722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] A representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran is attending a meeting of the resolutions' committee of the second conference of ministers of culture and education from nonaligned and developing countries, currently being held in Cuba.

He has presented a plan stressing the need to observe international laws, especially with regard to the ban on the use of nuclear and chemical weapons. He has suggested that this be included in the cultural and educational programs of the participating countries as international moral principles.

With the exception of the representative of the Iraqi regime, the other conference participants welcomed this plan. The Iraqi representative was forced to show his country's sensitivity toward the mention of a ban on chemical weapons, thereby revealing the inhuman position of the Iraqi regime. Discussions on this issue continued in the resolutions' committee throughout Thursday and upto Friday night.

Reportage, Commentary on Bush Visit to Gulf States

Arrival in Riyadh Noted

GF041400 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Apr 86

[From "Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush has arrived in Saudi Arabia on an official visit to begin a tour which will also include Oman, Bahrain, and the YAR. At the same time that Bush arrived in Saudi Arabia, Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, arrived in Dubayy on a visit which had not been previously announced. Observers see in this intensive U.S. activity a heightening U.S. anxiety following the devastating Islamic victories in the strategic Al-Faw region and the possibilities of future defeats for the Baghdad regime in expected operations which might take place all along the war front from the north to the south.

Purpose of Visit

GF051912 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 86

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] Brothers, U.S. Vice President George Bush has arrived in Saudi Arabia at the start of a tour which also includes Bahrain, Oman, and the YAR. As Bush began his tour of the Gulf region, Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, has begun another tour. It began in Dubayy and includes Qatar and Kuwait.

What has been announced concerning this intensive U.S. activity is that it proceeds from attention to the situation of the oil market, the Islamic-Ba'thist war, and the Middle East crisis, in addition to the Afghan question. Despite this number of problems and crises, doubtlessly Bush's primary attention in his tour pertains to the developments of the Islamic-Ba'thist war and the future possibilities of these developments. The war has entered a decisive and critical stage. The final outcome may be a military victory for the Islamic Republic. Among the clear indications of such a possibility is the recent Al-Faw battle. The Al-Faw battle was a horrendous defeat for the forces of the Saddamist regime. Among its serious points are its strategic implications which have far-reaching effects on military operations that might take place in future.

These operations have given a firm impression of the inability of the Baghdad regime to confront the Islamic forces after all of its fortifications and defensive lines failed to face these forces in the Al-Faw battle. The circumstances of Al-Faw have caused anxiety among international and regional circles concerning the possibility of future military developments that might seriously affect the existence and future of the Saddamist regime.

The U.S Administration has found in this fanciful anxiety a suitable opportunity to blackmail the Gulf countries. This blackmail has two motives. The first is to drive these countries into a stage of more developed relations with Washington. The second is connected with the arms trade — to sell more weapons to these countries, with all the military and technological subservience that this signifies.

What confirms the view that Bush's tour is centrally connected with the Islamic-Ba'thist war are the statements which have pointed out that the tour is an implemention of the U.S. commitment to the region's security and stability. Although some people in the region bet on such U.S. statements and surmises, past and present experiences nullify such betting. The buried shah of Iran has gone forever. Similarly, the fall of Marcos and Haiti's dictator has been such that they have so far been unable to find a shelter in which to take refuge. How can one believe in U.S. statements?

The best reassurance, security, and peace comes from establishing correct regional relations among the Gulf countries after toppling the Baghdad regime. This alone is capable of preserving security and stability without foreign intervention.

Visit To Deal With Oil, War

GF060658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Commentary by the Research Group of the Central News Unit: "The Trip of Two U.S. Officials to the Persian Gulf Region"]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday amid tight security precautions. During this trip he will visit several regional countries including Bahrain, Oman, and the YAR. He is accompanied by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Murphy has so far visited the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait and has handed messages from Reagan to the shaykhs in these countries. In Qatar, Murphy once again showed concern about the progress of the imposed war and called for an end to it. This was not the first time that the United States has showed concern about the recent developments in the imposed war, especially following the victory of the Islamic warriors in the Al-Faw region. Some time ago a spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that Iran's victory in the Al-Faw area had endangered U.S. interests. Also, the Reagan administration, within what it calls Iran's threats against the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, has announced that it would defend these countries.

There are some who believe that Murphy's trip, and now Bush's to the Persian Gulf area, which clearly includes all the GCC nations, is to give them assurances with regard to recent developments in the region and also to encourage the shaykhs to continue their erroneous policies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. It has been announced that during his trip Bush will discuss developments in the imposed war and oil prices with his hosts in these countries.

Concerning the price of oil, it seems that the United States is very concerned about the rapid fall in the price of oil and the lack of stability of oil prices at a certain level. Although this seems to contradict the previous Reagan administration policies which used to welcome and support any drop in oil prices, this latest position-taking has to be seen within the framework of the propaganda plot by Washington and reactionary Arabs to lower oil prices.

The U.S. Government reasons that as a result of the drop in oil prices to levels below $10, which is unprecedented in the past 13 years, a considerable segement of that country's manpower will be adversely affected. This is because the lower oil prices will put pressure on the major U.S. oil companies and place them on the verge of bankruptcy. If these companies close down, 10 percent of the U.S. workforce will stop functioning. This issue could become the source of an unpredictable crisis for that country's government.

Outwardly, the Americans reason that although the drop in oil prices causes a considerable drop in the rate of inflation followed by economic growth, so too, the price of oil must be kept at a level that will not bankrupt the big oil companies. According to what has been said, it has been announced that Bush during his trip to Saudi Arabia will try to convince Shaykh Zaki Yamani to take steps to stabilize the price of oil.

In this propaganda ploy Saudi Arabia seems to be taking an independent decision and, while it would appear on the surface that it is Saudi Arabia which is playing with the oil prices, in reality the goal of this propaganda ploy, according to many analysts, is to justify Saudi Arabia's position and to put the blame on OPEC for the differences that exist and the current situation.

All this is taking place at a time when the coordinated and active role of the reactionaries and aggressors to lower oil prices and loot the resources of the people of the Third World to the advantage of the capitalistic giants is known to everyone. The lowering of oil prices has been done in accordance with a clear and defined policy whose aim is to ensure expansion and growth for Western economies, and more importantly, to put pressure on oil-producing countries, foremost of which is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, the reality is that the West is not happy to see a long-term drop in the oil market and wants to see oil prices stabilized at a certain level. During the last OPEC meeting it seemed that Saudi Arabia would take steps in this direction and would stabilize the price of oil at a level acceptable to the United States, the West, and Japan. It is said that during the next one or two OPEC meetings this goal will be achieved and the price of oil will be stabilized and kept at a level which will be considerably lower than what it was before the fall.

In any case, world propaganda is reporting that Bush's trip will have a major effect on the world oil market and the stabilization of oil prices. The Venezuelan oil minister and chairman of OPEC has said that this trip will affect OPEC decisions. The Indonesian minister of energy has called it an important trip.

Despite these remarks, the region's analysts see the tight relations and cooperation between reactionaries, especially Saudi Arabia and the United States, in the plot to lower oil prices. They believe that Bush's discussions and coordination with Saudi Arabia will focus on the oil issue within the framework that prices must be fixed at a reasonable level, beneficial to the West.

Apart from the oil question, the other issue which will be closely followed by Bush during his trip to the region is the recent development in the imposed war. During the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, the Americans came to realize that they had the wrong impressions and analyses of the power and might of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The power of belief in the warriors of Islam breaks the most impenetrable military fortresses and captures them, so much so that piles of the most sophisticated and modern weaponry are not capable of stopping the will of the Islamic warriors. While the Americans are concerned and panicky about the victory of the Islamic warriors, the Reagan administration is trying to pass along its concern to the southern Persian Gulf states and to warn them. Reagan believes that the liberation of Al-Faw is like putting a match to a stack of dynamite, so he is encouraging these countries to continue their erroneous and dangerous policies.

In the meantime, some believe that one hidden aspect of Bush's visit to the area is to view the situation of the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq and the difficulties that country faces in future. While discussions on the future of Iraq and the possibility of a military victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war are being widely talked about in Western circles, there is no doubt that one of the points of discussion is a drawing up of facts on the future positions to be taken by the GCC countries in coordination with the United States.

'Aggressive' U.S. Policy To Continue

GF061625 Bandar-e 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush will arrive in Saudi Arabia today on a 10-day visit to the Persian Gulf region. During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and the YAR, he will review the issues of the region. U.S. Government circles deem this visit a goodwill mission to reassure U.S. allies in the Arab front. Contrary to the utterances of U.S. officials, it seems that Bush, the former CIA chief, has not entered the area for a goodwill mission, but for the necessary coordination to attain the aggressive objectives of his country by means of continuing the domineering U.S. policy. The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf are welcoming the U.S. vice president at a time when only a few days have passed since the overt aggression by the U.S. jetfighters against Libya. This is in direct contravention of the current policy professed by the Arab countries. The important question that arises among the Muslim ummah is, what is the cause of this antithesis in the stance of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf? On the one hand the echelons of the Arab countries raise the slogan of defense of the Arab nations on the propaganda loudspeakers, and on the other hand sit at the same table with the highest U.S. authority ever to visit the area in the past few years, obviously to ascertain their [U.S] opinion on the manner of their aggression against Libya. Hence this obviates the fact that U.S. Vice President George Bush has not — as U.S. officials allege — entered the region merely for the reaffirmation of friendly ties with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf but has certain other motives as well. What conditions could have arisen which required the visit of the U.S. vice president to reassure the shaykhs of the Persian Gulf? In view of the circumstances of the region — when the Islamic combatants inflict defeat on the last vestiges of the moribund Iraqi regime of Saddam and a multifaceted conspiracy engineered by the United States is in full swing in order to sharply reduce oil prices in order to exert pressure on the progressive OPEC member countries — it appears that during his trip George Bush is once again [as heard] going to endeavor to fan the apprehension of the Persian Gulf shaykhs on the advances by the Islamic combatants, so that he may be able to harmonize them even more with the U.S. dominating policy. This was their main objective the latest example of which is their oil policy. [as heard]

Bush Remarks Cited

LD061923 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, delivered a speech today to U.S. businessmen in Riyadh and explained U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf region.

According to an AP report, Bush praised the role played by the Saudi authorities, adding that relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia go beyond oil. He then said: Saudi Arabia is a friend and ally. The same report says that during his meeting with U.S. businessmen, Bush attacked the Islamic Republic for its recent operations against the Iraqi regime thus revealing the motive behind his tour of the region, which is to boost the Iraqi regime's morale.

Without referring to the U.S. defeat as a result of the Libyan people's resistance, Bush pointed out that the recent military confrontation between the United States and Libya in the Gulf of Sidra should serve as a reminder to Iranians. He added that during his meeting with the officials from Saudi Arabia and from three other regional Arab states various security and political issues will be discussed and reviewed. Bush said: There is not the slightest doubt that the United States remains committed to safeguarding the freedom of oil export through the Strait of Hormuz. No one should entertain any doubts about this issue.

He then added: We take the question of the security of the countries which are not involved in the Iran-Iraq war very seriously. Bush is to meet King Fahd twice between today and tomorrow. He will then leave for Bahrain, Oman, and the YAR. Reagan's vice president, who is promising Saudi Arabia the delivery of U.S. anti-aircraft and naval missiles, emphasized: Saudi Arabia is one of the few countries which enjoys a desirable and balanced trade with the United States. He added: The Reagan administration is convinced that the missile deal, worth of several million dollars will prove the point.

Bush, Murphy Statements Criticized

GF061925 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Apr 86

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush has arrived in Riyadh at the beginning of his tour, which also includes Bahrain, Oman, and the YAR. Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of Stwte for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, also joined Bush's delegation. Murphy has visited Dubai, Kuwait, and Qatar.

The statements by Bush and Murphy deal with the Islamic-Ba'thist war, the direction of its current conditions, and its future possibilities. However, the central trend in these statements is basically directed to what they call the expansion of this war to include other areas. Regarding Saudi arms, Bush said that Washington will meet Saudi's arms requirements to resist the developments of the war and what he called to defend itself.

Murphy said that the expansion of the war is a dangerous development for the United States. Why is there such a direction, why is this tune being played, and who is the one demanding the expansion of the war? It should be said that the talk on the possibilities of expanding the war is not a new development. It is talk crowned with the march of the 'Aflaqi aggression since its first day, and until now. Arrogance, agents, and suspicious circles always used to incite such suspicions by showing false concern for the security and stability of the region. Why? Because it was and still is within the studied framework to blackmail the Gulf states and put them before an imaginary enemy — Iran — in order to create differences and a big gap between the Islamic Republic and these states. It seems that this new incitement is the expansion of those old policies. There is nothing new in it except strengthening it with the developments resulting from the recent Islamic victories in the strategic Al-Faw region. When from time to time this storm is incited the masters of such a trend throw the blame on others and take the side of defending the security and stability of the region, as if they had nothing to do with it, in a time when they are responsible for any threat to expand the war, that is, if there is any threat.

During the years of the aggression the Islamic Republic confined the war to its current borders. Without this keenness the flames of the war would have spread very quickly. The trend of the Baghdad regime is not independent because the 'Aflaqi regime does nothing without the permission of international powers and known regional powers in the region. This regime tried and is still trying to expand the war and internationalize the situation, because this was the stand of other international, U.S. and European sides and the stand of Gulf regional sides. The Baghdad regime made various attempts in this direction threatening the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf waters or dragging Gulf states into the war. However, the Islamic military and political strategy has until now prevented this. And now, when the sides of the sedition are once again talking about sedition and the possibility of its expansion, this is because they want it, as they believe it is the only way to save the Baghdad regime. But after affirming our desire to confine the war to its current boundaries with the Baghdad regime we say that the Gulf region is very combustible and the extension of the flame will not only lead to the fall of the 'aflaqi regime but might also burn others. Beware of playing with fire, because the U.S. assurances in Bush's or Murphy's statements are only promises. Neither helped the late shah or Marcos in the Philippines.

Reportage on Visit of Zimbabwean Foreign Minister

Velayati Interviewed on Upcoming Talks

LD042235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 4 April — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Velayati, considering the priority given to the expansion of relations with African countries by the Islamic Republic, would you please tell us about the topics that are to be raised and discussed with the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs which follows the visit to that country by President Khamene'i?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The visit to Iran by the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs is in fact a visit aimed at the expansion of relations between Iran and Zimbabwe. In view of the fact that Zimbabwe will be hosting the forthcoming Nonaligned Movement conference; that it is preparing itself for this conference, which will be attended by Nonaligned Movement leaders, it therefore follows that it should

contact and exchange views with some of the members which have a determining role in the movement, prior to holding the conference. This is one of the objectives of the visit and the subsequent talks, God willing, within the next 2 days.

Another objective, as he himself pointed out is to follow up the earlier talks held in Zimbabwe during President Khamene'i's visit to that country and his discussions with Zimbabwean officials. During that visit, we held talks on expansion of economic, agricultural, and trade ties. Preliminary stages already have been set.

[Question]: What sort of economic cooperation could be established between the two countries?
[Velayati]: Zimbabwe is a good producer of meat, corn, and certain other minerals. As for industry, it has had some successes. We already have held talks with them with regard to export of oil and works related to oil industry, such as the erection of a refinery there. God willing, we hope to see the realization of the talks, namely, the realization of what we have already agreed upon. God willing, we will be following these talks up during the current visit.

Arrives 4 April

LD041736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mangwende, minister of foreign affairs of Zimbabwe, arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a political-economic delegation and at the invitation of our country's foreign minister. He was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Before his arrival in Tehran, he visited historical sites in Shiraz during his 1-day stay there. Upon arrival in Tehran, he gave an interview to our correspondent and, commenting on the objective of his visit, said:

Following a visit to Zimbabwe by President Khamene'i, we were very eager to pay a visit to Iran. This is a friendly visit which shows our solidarity with Iran. Citing the talks with his country's officials during President Khamene'i's visit there, the minister of foreign affairs of Zimbabwe said: One of the objectives of this visit is to follow up these talks and to put into effect our wishes, which aim to strengthen bilateral solidarity.

Talks Begin 5 April

LD051528 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — The first round of talks between Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati started here Saturday. The talks covered international issues as well as Tehran-Harare mutual relations and cooperation.

At the meeting, Mangwende said that his visit which followed the successful visit by President 'Ali Khamene'i to Harara was "a clear proof of the resolve of his country to promote her relations with Iran." He said that Iran and Zimbabwe had similar attitudes on international issues including the Non-Aligned Movement. He furthermore noted that the two countries could have firm cooperation in economic, cultural, political and international fields. President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran made a tour of several African countries including Zimbabwe in January to outline the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the meeting Velayati said that the two countries could have sound politico-economic relations which could lead to increased cooperation in international arena. Issues relevant to South Africa, Libya and the Iraqi imposed war were other topics discussed at the meeting.

Received by Oil Minister

LD051612 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — Visiting Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Dr. Witness Mangwenda and his accompanying entourage met and conferred with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday. At the meeting, the two sides discussed issues pertaining to constructing an oil refinery in Zimbabwe by Iranian experts and providing its needed oil by Iran.

Also discussed by the two were the articles of a letter of understanding signed by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i during his visit to Harare in January. The two also agree to continue contacts and talks between Iranian and Zimbabwean experts. Aqazadeh suggested that the two countries exchange commodities especially non-oil goods through barter agreement which was welcomed by Mangwende.

Meets With Musavi

LD061928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] The Zimbabwean foreign minister met and conferred with prime minister Musavi this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Zimbabwean foreign minister expressed the desire of his government to expand relations in the diplomatic economic, and cultural fields. He conveyed a friendly message from the Zimbabwean prime minister to our country's prime minister.

Then, in reply, referring to the common diplomatic, cultural and economic denominators between the two countries, Prime Minister Musavi stressed the need for further cooperation between Third World countries in regional and international matters. Referring to the neither East nor West policy of Iran, he called for more understanding of each country's stances by the other. He pointed out Zimbabwe's role at the next nonaligned session.

He also stressed the importance of trade among Third World countries as a means of strengthening those countries. He said: The Third World countries must get rid of their habit of being close to the big powers in their diplomatic and economic relations.

Trade Talks Held

LD061936 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA — Visiting Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende in a meeting with Iranian commerce minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here Sunday called for establishment of commercial relations between Iran and Zimbabwe.

At the meeting, the Iranian commerce minister said that just as Iran and Zimbabwe had political and cultural relations they should as well develop economic relations. He said that an economic agreement for economic cooperation and trade exchanges between the two countries is currently under study. An Iranian delegation from Commerce Ministry is to visit Harare for talks on expanding Tehran-Harare trade relations shortly.

Received by Khamene'i

LD062321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] This afternoon, President Khamene'i received Dr Mangwende, the Zimbabwean foreign minister, who has come to Tehran at the head of a high-ranking diplomatic-economic delegation.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the Iranian ambassador to Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean foreign minister conveyed warm greetings from his country's president and prime minister. He then submitted a report on his talks with Iranian authorities. He commented on the positive results of the president's visit to Zimbabwe, considering its lofty aims, that is, the declaration of the decisive solidarity of Iran with countries on the front line of the struggle against the racist regime of South Africa. He conveyed the wish of his country's authorities for an overall expansion of technical relations between Iran and Zimbabwe. He said: Our two countries have common views on many international issues, such as those of Afghanistan, Cambadia, Nicaragua, the Middle East, Palestine, South Africa and the independence of Namibia.

He concluded by saying: We consider the Islamic Republic of Iran one of the few trustworthy countries and a true friend to us. He conveyed the gratitude of his country's leaders for Iran's support and assistance for better organizing the next session of the heads of the Nonaligned Movement in Zimbabwe.

Then, while expressing his thanks in return for the greetings of President Banana and Prime Minister Mugabe, and welcoming the expansion of friendly relations between the two countries, President Khamene'i stressed the importance of establishing strong and profitable relations with African and Third World countries. He said: Iran considers it its duty to give comprehensive assistance to the African people who have passed a new era under injustice and colonialism and who are still suffering from the effects of the injustice.

He added: We believe that helping in overcoming oppression in African countries, oppression that is totally due to the active and interfering presence of the racist regime of South Africa, would be very beneficial to the people of that region. For that regime is the sole cause of the problems facing African nations and has threatened their security, peace and any plans they make for their own future. Therefore, the only way to combat these problems is through unity and solidarity between all countries that have similar views and policies in this matter.

The president stressed: We consider the issue of Palestine and the presence of the usurper regime of Israel in Palestinian lands -- as the issue of the racist regime of South Africa -- as one of the important issues facing suppressed nations. He said: In truth, these problems do not solely concern a few countries; they concern all Third World countries. Hence, it is necessary for all countries that have tasted suppression and injustice and have learned to fight on the political arena, to consider these issues seriously and practically. For limiting Third World countries to their own problems makes them vulnerable.

Stressing the importance of expansion of overall relations and the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Zimbabwe as a country on the front line of the struggle and a country which has gained its independence through its struggles, the president referred to the important role of the Nonaligned Movement in international issues. He said: When Third World countries feel that they are not supported by international organizations, they turn to particular organizations. The Nonaligned Movement is one such organization. This movement was created because Third World countries had lost faith in big organizations. Therefore, it is natural for it to deal with their [Third World Countries] problems.

He concluded by stressing that all oppressed nations expected more conviction in the stances taken by the Nonaligned Movement toward international issues. He expressed the hope that the movement would by greater effort be able to confirm its great mission regarding international issues.

Second Round of Talks Held

GF070604 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The second round of talks between the political delegation from Zimbabwe, headed by that country's foreign minister, and our country's foreign minister were held yesterday at noon. According to the Central News Unit, during this round of talks the two sides discussed bilateral ties, African issues, Third World problems, and the U.S. aggression against Libya.

Foreign Minister Velayati said: We are both in very sensitive areas of the world and therefore we have no option but to stand firm and deal seriously with threats from the big powers and their lackeys. It is in accordance with this principle that we have stood firm in the face of the attack by the puppet regime ruling Baghdad against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We shall continue this resistance and holy defense until our demands are met and not settle for anything less than a condemnation of Saddam as the source of aggression in the region. It is natural for us to expect the Nonaligned Movement and other international organizations to take positive steps in this regard.

Our country's foreign minister continued by saying: Now that the United Nations and its Security Council have confirmed and condemned the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we hope the Nonaligned Movement also will take a correct and realistic approach to this illegal action. Mr Velayati then formally announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to extend any facilities toward the successful convening of the next summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwean foreign minister replied by thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to Zimbabwe. He then commented on the imposed war and the illegal and inhuman actions of Iraq against Iran. He said: Your efforts have so far succeeded, to a certain extent, in changing and correcting international views concerning the war. We condemn attacks against civilian areas, civilian aircraft, and the use of chemical weapons.

Departs Tehran 7 April

GF070524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Mangwende, who had visited our country at the head of a political-economic delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was given a formal farewell by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Predeparture Statement

LD071357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Prior to his departure from Tehran Zimbabwe foreign minister spoke to our correspondent, referring to his visit as very fruitful, and expressed satisfaction with his talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic. He then said: The Zimbabwean politico-economic delegation held talks on various topics, particularly on consolidating bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The Zimbabwe foreign minister said: We also held talks on various issues relating to international affairs. Needless to say, as far as this aspect is concerned we hold similar views on a number of issues. As for the general aspect of struggles in the Middle East and the Palestinian struggles in the Middle East, we also hold similar views. We feel that Afghanistan has been occupied by certain forces. We call for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, the settlement of the Cambodian issue and Central American problems, the general supervision required for the world economy, as well as the movement and more efforts by the countries of the south aimed at strengthening relations among them.

He added: Our Iranian counterparts briefed us on the regional issues and the war between Iran and Iraq, as well as their own understanding of this war. The Iranian side briefed us on the point that it is Iraq which is the aggressor, saying that any aggressor and any aggressive act must be punished, and that we [Iran] shall continue our struggle until the aggressor is annihilated.

In conclusion the Zimbabwean foreign minister said: can stress that the visit has been useful for us, and that I have been acquainted with what is happening in the region.

Tehran Reports Kurdish Operations in Northern Iraq

GF021850 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries carried out military operations against two posts of troops and mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime in (?Arbat) and Sayyid Sadiq in northern Iraq on Monday. During a 2-hour battle, the Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries killed 28 members of the Iraqi forces stationed at the posts.

Jordan Offers Military Aid to Iraq

GF051356 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Apr 86

[From the "Voice of Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] The Jordanian regime is still offering its aid and assistance to its ally, agent Saddam. Recent reports indicate that the regime of Shah Husayn offered regular forces and some pilots with their planes to the Baghdad regime. The reports add that squads for execution will be formed from these Jordanian troops to execute Iraqi military servicemen who retreat from the battlefront. The task of the Jordanian pilots is to protect the regime inside so that the Iraqi Air Force can carry out its tasks on the battlefront.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Attack Repulsed 4 Apr

LD041817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] According to a report issued by the Khate ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center for the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Saddam's defeated Ba'thist-Zionist forces this morning mounted a futile offensive near the Iraqi lake of (Darbandikhan).

In the course of this offensive the Ba'thist enemy, trying to capture the (Bardarkan) heights, came face to face with the courageous and steadfast forces of Islam, and having suffered heavy losses and damage, was made to retreat.

In the course of this futile attempt a large number of the Zionist forces were killed or wounded, and some were captured, 20 of whom have been evacuated to the rear of the battlefronts.

The remaining aggressor enemy forces are now completely surrounded by the Islamic warriors, who are continuing their mopping up operations and the total eradication of the Zionist enemy forces.

Operations in West, South Detailed

LD041730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] According to a report of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, the Islamic warriors stationed in the northwestern sector during the past 24 hours maintained their supremacy over enemy movements by dispatching patrol units and setting up ambush posts. They inflicted some losses and damage on the Iraqi forces by firing heavy weaponry.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued in the western sector, destroying five slit-trenches, four observation posts, two vehicles and a tank of the Zionist enemy, and killing or injuring 18 Iraqi serviceman.

Yesterday, the economic and industrial installations of Banmiland Naftkhanah in Iraq were under our heavy artillery fire, which inflicted heavy damage on the enemy.

According to the Joint Staff Command, at 1245 today, an Iraqi aircraft attempted to bomb Paveh, martyring eight residents. Also, a number of residential buildings were destroyed.

Further, in the southern sector, the gendarmerie warriors opened fire, disrupting enemy engineering activities and inflicting some losses and damage on them.

Yesterday, Abadan was still under long-range weaponry fire from the aggressor forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

Iraqi Company 'Wiped Out'

LD051031 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran in an operation in Val-Fajr-9 operational theater in northeast of Iraq Friday night completely demolished an Iraqi company, said the spokesman for the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Afshar, here Saturday.

He told IRNA that Islamic forces infiltrated the Iraqi forces and wiped out a company of the 30th Battalion of the 34th Army. In this operation, he added, the commander of the company was killed and a large number of enemy munition was seized.

Basra Munitions Depot Explodes

LD051036 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — An explosion in an ammunition depot of the Iraqi Third Army in Shu'aybah, western Basra, last Saturday killed and wounded tens of Iraqi military personnel, reliable sources said Saturday [5 April].

The fire caused by the explosion lasted for 12 hours as a result of which missiles and armament exploded, causing massive destruction and killing a large number of people.

The explosion put the city of Basra in a state of unrest, following which security officers blocked the roads leading to the city.

Meanwhile, foreigners living in Basra were evacuated amid tight security measures. The Iraqi officials have so far kept silence on the explosion; however, rumours have spread in the city that the Iranian forces have attacked Basra, the sources added.

Al-'Umayah Oil Platform on Fire

LD051059 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — A major part of Al-'Umayah oil platform in the northwest of the Persian Gulf was destroyed by the heavy fire of the Islamic combatants of Iran, a spokesman for the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps said here Saturday. He added that the smoke of the fire caused by the Friday night attack on the platform is still covering the area. The Iraqi forces suffered heavy damages and casualties.

Meanwhile, the IRGC spokesman added, the naval unit of IRGC sunk an Iraqi frigate in Khawr 'Abdallah waters Friday night.

Reports from Khatem-ol-Anbiya joint headquarters of the Army and the IRGC said Saturday that the Iranian forces in their operation Friday night in which an Iraqi company was demolished, seized telecommunication equipment as well as a large amount of intact munition from the Iraqi forces.

In another development, Iraqi Muslim Kurdish peshmerga attacked Mandian command headquarters in the heights north of Sadiq Governorate last Thursday, demolishing the headquarters and killing or wounding eight Iraqi forces.

The Iraqi Muslim Kurds returned to their bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission, reports said.

Joint Staff Reports Latest Fighting

LD051724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] According to the report of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the combatants of Islam on the north-western battlefronts, while smashing some enemy positions and killing and wounding a number of enemy troops, also destroyed several tanks belonging to them.

Yesterday, the oil and industrial installations of the towns of Banmil and Naft Khaneh in Iraq continued to be subjected to the heavy artillery fire of the powerful forces of Islam, and further damage was inflicted on these installations. In the exchange of fire on the western battlefronts, the intensity of fire was greater on the whole in the Naft-Shahr and Sumar region and the losses and casualties of the aggressor enemy included the destruction of 10 weapon emplacements, 2 vehicles and 1 ammunition dump, and at least 15 enemy troops killed or wounded.

In the Dehloran operational sector, on the southern battlefronts, gendarmerie fighters and ground forces combatants dispatched patrol units, killing a substantial number of Zionist enemy troops, and setting on fire at least eight heavy weapons' emplacements

and observation posts belonging to the Saddamists.

In the Chinanah region, a patrol units of the Zionist enemy came under the fire of the combatants of Islam and was repelled, sustaining some casualties. Also in the region opposite Nanhr-Anbar, the brave warriors of Islam, by bringing under their fire two different columns of the Iraqi forces consisting of an armored and truck column, were able to inflict effective damage on them.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan was subjected to the artillery fire of the enemy.

Communique No 2,432

LD061543 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA — At least 30 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded during the exchange of fire with Islamic forces of Iran in the western fronts Saturday, according to a military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

In its Communique Number 2432, the command said three bunkers, four observation posts, and two tank emplacements of Iraqi forces were destroyed during the artillery exchanges in the western fronts, which raged more heavily in Shaykh Salih and Mahran.

The communique said the exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts raging more heavily in Panjwin as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy motor pool were set ablaze. Several Iraqi bunkers were also devastated.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants pounded an Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate their positions in Penjwin early Saturday killing or wounding a number of Iraqi patrols and forcing the remainder to flee, the communique said.

The Iranian Muslim forces maintained close combat with the Iraqi troops in Shaykh Salih, said the communique, adding that the industrial centers and oil installations of Iraqi townships of Banmil and Naft Khaneh sustained heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire.

In the southern fronts, it said, intense artillery duels between Iranian forces and Iraqi troops were reported in Sharhani, Zobeidat,[spelling as received] Majnun Islands and Hussainiyah.

A number of Iraqi vessels trying to approach Iranian positions around the Khur 'Abd Allah waterway at 19:10 hours (15:40 hours GMT) Saturday were forced to flee when shelled by Iranian Muslim forces, according to the joint staff.

Meanwhile, the heavy weapons fire of Iraqi forces on the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Saturday damaged some houses and shops.

300 Iraqis Killed 5 Apr

LD062010 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov., April 6, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants killed 300 Iraqi soldiers in Darbandi-Khan operational region over Saturday.

Iranian Muslim combatants also smashed 10 to 30 per cent of Iraqi commando forces and military hardware of the first and the second corps of Baghdad Regime Army.

Iraq Plans 'Last-Ditch' Operation

LD062117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] According to a central news unit report, a military official at Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters has said: The desperate Iraqi regime, having reorganized the remainder of its smashed units and its defeated forces in the Val-Fajr-8 operational theater, intends to launch a last-ditch operation. The military source, while warning the Iraqi forces, stressed that Islamic combatants in Al-Faw operational zone are in full control of the area; and that any last-ditch attempts by the Zionist enemy will be met by a decisive response by Islamic combatants, culminating in transforming the area into their own graveyard.

The report adds that the military source called on the misguided Iraqi forces to surrender to the Islamic Republic Forces in order to remain immune from the Islamic forces' blazing wrath.

Bombing of Civilian Areas Denied

LD071451 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters Monday categorically denied an Iraqi claim Sunday that Iranian forces had shelled Iraqi cities of Mandali, Khanaqin and Khumal.

A WIH spokesman described the Iraqi claim as a mere lie and a futile effort to justify the Baghdad regime's new crimes in bombarding Iran's civilian areas, including its recent bombardment of the Kurdish city of Paveh in Bakhtaran Province.

He said the group of foreign journalists who visited the city of Paveh Monday were able once again to closely examine the extent of the Iraqi atrocity in its inhuman attacks on Iranian cities.

The spokesman reiterated that Iran had not shelled any Iraqi city on Sunday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi Differ on Media Budget

GF061259 London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 86 p 16

[Commentary column: "Behind-the-Scene Politics"]

[Text] Relations between Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani have become strained over

the question of a budget increase for Iran Voice and Vision. Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who in the course of receiving a vote of confidence in the Majlis had obtained support from Hashemi-Rafsanjani and who had made good use of the differences between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, last week launched a strong attack on Voice and Vision (radio-television), run by the brother of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said there is large-scale squandering going on in the Voice and Vision organization, and the authorities in charge of this set-up have resorted to commercial and other paid advertisement to meet their absurd and exorbitant demands. They have also taken the television back to prerevolution days. Musavi added: It is not necessary that the radio television institution should incur so many expenses that it should be forced to accept commercial advertisements on non-essential goods which encourage the public in unnecessary consumption. Our policy is that we fight against consumption, but the television officials do things against our policy. Musavi added: A detailed letter has been drafted for Mr Hashemi, the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, which will be sent to him soon. We are trying to divert the attention of the general public from consumerism to other things, like the war. Television should talk more about what is happening at the battlefronts and at "al-Faw" and should show films on these subjects. But to add to their income, they have returned to the things which were in vogue in the past.

Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who should remain neutral in such matters, started defending the Voice and Vision and his brother and said: Shortcomings in the Voice and Vision have no relation to the budget. One should not forget the achievements of the organization. He then referred to other objections and said: In that case the television should do nothing but resort to the commemoration of the martyrs of Karbala'. I have correct information that the imam watches the programs of the Voice and Vision. If the programs were against the divine law he would forbid them. For example, the serial "Amir Kabir" is good and the actors take great care in portraying our history. You can therefore see that you do not watch only a lady on the screen. If your objections were correct then the doors of the Voice and Vision should be shut. We are living in times when all those radio stations are working against us. The imam personally told me last year to increase the Voice and Vision budget. The speaker added: Iranian films cost more and if they do not make Iranian films they will have to import foreign films. Everybody in Iran is not like us — students of the theological school. These youth should be shown good educational films. To be just and fair we must say that the Voice and Vision is doing very well and the singers and actors are working on the right lines.

Mr Hashemi, the managing director of the Voice and Vision, said: Out of the total strength of 14,000 of this organization 8,000 are new and have been recruited after the revolution. This is a sign of the importance in which this organization is held. Faults in the Voice and Vision cannot be removed by a cut in its budget. On the contrary, cuts in the budget would add to the shortcomings. The Arab countries have 16 channels with programs seen by the people in the Bandar 'Abbas Province; we have only 2 channels. If we are to compete with them then we must add to our channels. You do not have the patience of watching a 4-second commercial but the Arab countries broadcast commercials for hours together. Despite all this you want us to close down Channel 2. In conclusion he said: With this meager raise in the budget we can only keep our programs corresponding to the programs of 1975.

After the speech of the managing director of the Voice and Vision, the suggestion of Mr Bayat in regarding increasing the budget of the Voice and Vision to the figure proposed by the government (23 billion rials) was voted upon and accepted.